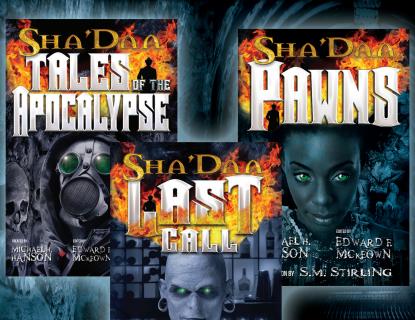




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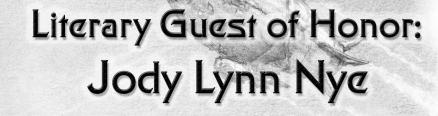
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# Thank You For Attending

# LibertyCon 27



Artist Guest of Honor: Kurt Miller

Science Guest of Honor Travis Taylor

Special Guest of Honor Dayid Cherry

Master of Ceremony

Jim Minz

# Welcome to Liberty Con 27! by Brandy Bolgeo Spraker Chairman

Has it really been a year since LibertyCon 26? WOW! Time flies when you are having fun, and we have definitely been having a ball planning this year's convention. And what a convention, with fabulous new headliners as well as wonderful past guests coming to LibertyCon to hang out. We have staff members who have been with us for decades as well as those who are new to Liberty, all of whom are taking the time to get everything that you see now up and running. We have so many great things this year it's hard to know where to start!

I was three years old when Dad took me to my first convention and it's always amazing to me to see how much fandom has changed over the years while at the same time staying true to our roots.

When Dad and the rest of his cohorts were setting up a little summertime convention who would have realized what it would become almost thirty years later? Our list of pros has grown to not only include a great selection of authors and artists (much like they had) but also includes game developers, podcasters, and some of the finest scientific minds in the country! Not to mention the fact that one of our "Headline" quests is editor Jim Minz. While he might not be an author

himself, he has been responsible for bringing you some of the best fiction that you've ever laid eyes on!

Every year, LibertyCon hosts a charity close to our heart. We are honored to make the AIM Center LibertyCon 27's charity in memory of one of our own, Andrew Martin. Andy had been receiving services and housing from the AIM Center, a local organization that specializes in helping individuals with mental issues. In their own words: "AIM Center helps people with mental illnesses reclaim their lives. We treat the individual—teaching them to manage their condition across their living, working, learning and social environments." They are a lesser known group that serves an incredible need, and doing it in a very underfunded manner. As we do every year, we will have donated items for sale in the Art Show. Some of these items will be in our Art Auction, an event not to miss!

For most of you, when you arrive at the Choo Choo, your first stop after getting your room will be the Registration tables. Say hello to Matt and pretend that he doesn't look a little tired as he has already put in hundreds of hours to get everything organized so that your registration experience is as painless as possible. And as you get your badge, don't forget to look at (and buy) the t-shirt created by our Artist Guest of Honor, Kurt Miller. It is awesome!

In the Programming arena, Rich has done such a fantastic job that when you get frustrated because you want to see 20 hours of programming in one day, just remember what Regina says, "It's good to have choices!" We have everything from performances by the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company to the always popular Mad Scientist Panel with moderator Les Johnson and our Science Guest of Honor, Travis Taylor (bring your beer!). No matter what part of fandom that you come from, you will definitely have something that interests you! Our Literary Guest of Honor, Ms. Jody Lynn Nye, will be moderating a Science Fiction writing workshop for those aspiring authors out there. How awesome is that???

Next you might go to the Art Show and see what Shannon has in store for you. Well, you are in for a treat! Artwork is on display from such amazing artists as our AGoH Kurt Miller, our Special Guest David Cherry, Melissa Gay, Mike and Paul Bielaczyc and many, many others. Come with your credit card in hand!

The ConSuite is, as always, a dangerous place to be if you are on a diet. This is Michael's last year as our Hospitality Director, so he will be going out with a flurry of good eating!!! He and Vonn, his right hand gal, have an all-weekend plan laid out to make sure that you always have something to nosh on. As for Michael, once a director, always a slave-part of LibertyCon, so he will continuing on as our Gunmaster Extraordinaire. There will be food and beer galore, as well as our annual summer ice cream social. And since the ConSuite opens directly onto the pool patio, expect it to be a crowded spot for socializing. Pull up a chair and enjoy the company!

Our Huckster Room will be chocked full of goodies for you to purchase... from leather goods to books (because what would LibertyCon be without books??) you will find many things to tempt you and drain your wallet. And remember that the Huckster Room is also host to our author autograph sessions, so keep an eye on the schedule. You don't want to miss these guys!

As you can see, there really is something for everyone this weekend. And none of it would be possible without our wonderful staff. Each and every one of these people pay the same membership that you do to come and work to make this a fun and relaxing weekend. When you see someone with a staff badge, please thank them.

Now let the games begin!!!!!

# Liberty Con Rules (AKA: The Things We Have To Tell You)

**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!** 

ROOM PARTIES: If you are having a room party, remember, this is the South. We are friendly and inclusive. Whether your party is in the Consuite or in a hotel room with the door open, the expectation is that it is open to all LibertyCon attendees. If your party is intended to be private, it should not be in the Consuite, and if your party is in your room, please keep your door shut so that misunderstandings and hurt feelings don't occur. Also, Tennessee State Law does not allow the consumption of alcohol for anyone under 21 years of age. If you are serving alcohol, please check everyone's ID. YOU are responsible for this no matter where your party is. LibertyCon will not assume any responsibility to check badges for any type of party. Don't assume if someone has a drinking badge that they are 21 or over.... badges can be swapped.

**GRILLS & OUTDOOR COOKING:** No grills are allowed on the hotel premises. The hotel has informed us that this violates their insurance policy. We have a wonderful hotel and would like to keep our great relationship with them.

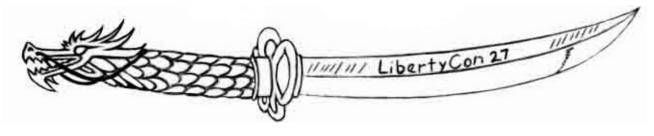
**EJECTION FROM THE CONVENTION:** If you are ejected from LibertyCon because of violation of the convention rules or Tennessee State Law, your attendance fees will not be refunded.

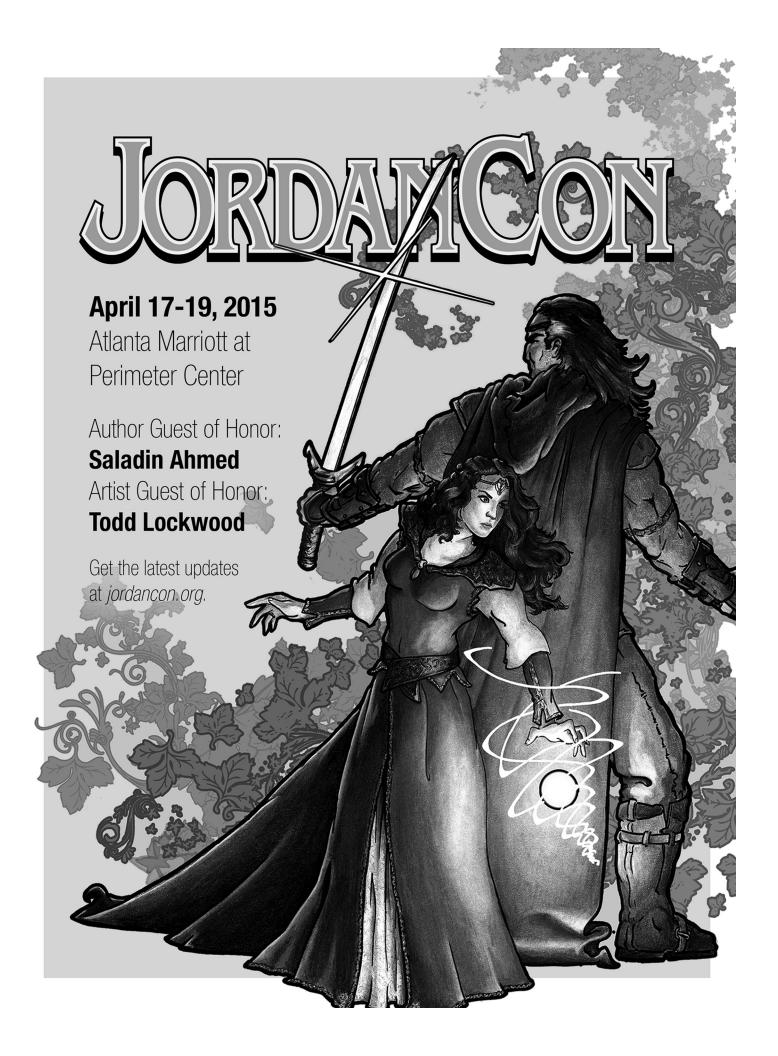
**LOST BADGE POLICY:** If you lose your badge at the convention, you will have to purchase another one at the full admission price of \$50. We are sorry to take this rough stance, but incidents with people (Not Fans) purchasing a replacement badge to give/sell to a friend at a reduced price only increases 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.

**ATTIRE:** We at LibertyCon love costumes! However three strategically placed seashells does not constitute a costume. Please remember that we are a family friendly convention.





# Jody Lynn Nye

## Literary Guest of Honor



Jody does a good job of covering her own biography, and not surprisingly much more humorously than I could. So instead I am offering a few looks at her as I have known Jody over these three decades:

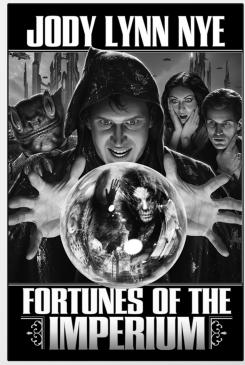
I first saw Jody Lynn Nye at a Michicon gaming convention almost a decade before I first asked her out. Jody was then dating the President of TSR and had typed the DMG and Player's Handbook for Gary Gygax. Being a mere minion who was just starting a small game company of our own, Mayfair Games, I was hesitant to approach and never even learned her

name. But I most certainly remember seeing Jody and being in a D&D game with her. This was back when any woman in gaming was still unusual, and one as pretty as Jody stood out. Making sure of this Jody always wore a similar outfit to conventions, jeans and a red speedo for a top. Jody is a demon gamer, still is, and she has since admitted to me that she wore the appealing outfit because, among other things, it guaranteed no DM would ever kill off her character.

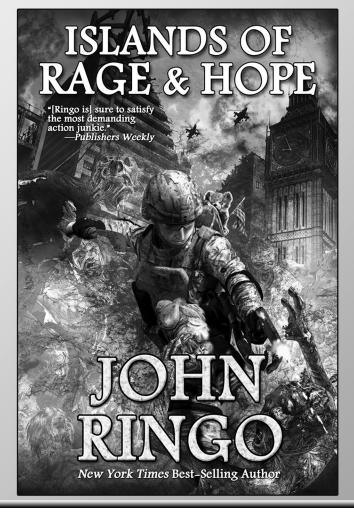
Ten years later I met Jody in the wee hours at a SF convention and we started dating. Not connecting her to the speedo clad gamer of the past, I never asked her about gaming. (A troubled topic in some of my earlier relationships.) So a few weeks later when we went together to our first gaming convention as a couple, I began to introduce her to my old TSR buddies... who all had known her longer and better than they had known me. Gaming was not that big a community and I still wonder how I missed meeting Jody again all those years, but sure am glad I did eventually. Having another gamer and writer for a partner is a wonderful thing.

Jody and Cats... So many stories. The first was that when I asked her to marry me, I was wise enough to include and we can adopt a few cats, in the offer. It probably helped. Once we got a house, we had been in it for less than a week when we "just stopped by" to see what the shelter is like. Once there we found there were short kittens (a good thing), but they suggested Jody go look in the main cat room where they had a four month black kitten that had been abused. By the time I got there a silky black cat was in her arms and had wrapped it paws around her neck. Another woman entered, also looking for a cat, and saw them. "What a pretty cat", she said reaching out to pet or take it. Jody wrapped both arms around the kitten and turned slightly away. She may even have actually said, "mine". She certainly looked it. It was all over. The bond was instant and lasting. Lila was the first of our many pampered, black cats.

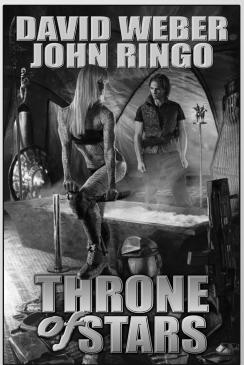
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# Kurt Miller

#### Artist Guest of Honor

I tend to think of Kurt as one of the "new guys" on the scene, but in fact he's been doing cover art for Baen for nearly a decade, and working in the field since 1990, so this is really more a reflection of my great age than "newness" on his part. He started out his career in the gaming industry and went on to become the lead illustrator for Avalon Hill. His path led him to computer gaming, and he worked with Talonsoft on a number of titles. You can see the ridiculously long list of clients he's worked with, and the even longer list of awards he's earned, at his very useful website: <a href="http://www.kmistudio.com/">http://www.kmistudio.com/</a>



Most useful, to Baen readers at least, is that you can order up prints of his lovely art there, in a wide range of sizes and formats.

I tell up and coming artists that you need to master the art of painting before you master the computer programs that support you. That's what Kurt did, and it shows. He's got a BFA and painted in oils and acrylics long before he became a master of Bryce and the other arcane tools of the artist's trade these days. His compositions are always intriguing and, important for Baen covers at least, full of movement and action. He's got a great presentation on the evolution of his art, and I highly recommend it for anyone who is interested in either becoming an artist, or in seeing how the sausage is made. There are a million decisions that go into his paintings—textures, angles of view, colors—and all of them can be manipulated down to the pixel. And he also thinks about how the future will look, researching weapons and technology to make the future feel real for us.

This attention to detail is one of the hallmarks of a great professional illustrator. It doesn't hurt that Kurt himself is a reader of SF and an avid gamer. Kurt is a delight to work with professionally. Insanely fast, great with author and editor input, and always ready to change things if necessary. (He's not happy about this, mind you, but no one ever is.)

You would think in person he'd be manic, moving quickly, with at least 8 cyborg arms so that he could reach the level of output he has in such a short time. But actually he's quite normal, even a little quiet. But he is LibertyCon people. If you take the time to draw him out (sorry, no pun intended), you will be rewarded.

#### - Toni Weisskopf

# Tired of losing your Pocket Program?

Want to keep up to date with the most current schedule changes on something you keep
with you anyway?

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Complete schedule listings, guest information, map and a whole lot more!

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Store



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# Dr. Travis Taylor Science Guest of Honor



It was ten years ago, at LibertyCon 17, that we were introduced to a guy who was an upcoming author and NASA workmate of our friend, Les Johnson. He was friendly, with a nice easy going Southern personality, and it didn't take him long to become a member of the LibertyCon Family. The man was, of course, Dr. Travis S. Taylor, this vear's LibertyCon Science Guest of Honor!

For those of you who don't know Dr. Travis Taylor, you are in for a treat! He is a LibertyCon regular and was our Special Guest for LibertyCon 19 in 2006. We like him so much that we asked him to serve as our Science Guest of Honor this year. Well, yes, we do like him very much, but honestly that's not the only reason we asked. As his bio says, he

is a true rocket scientist. Alabama born and bred, Travis has earned six degrees - optical science, engineering, physics, aerospace engineering, astronomy and electrical engineering. In addition, he has a second Ph.D. in aerospace engineering. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the state of Alabama and has worked with the Department of Defense & NASA for the past 25 years. He also has top secret clearance with the US Government.

According to Wikipedia, Travis has written more than twenty five technical papers, fourteen science fiction novels (really, really good ones we think) and two textbooks. He has appeared in multiple television documentaries including National Geographic Channel's highly-rated special "When Aliens Attack", the History Channel's production of "The Universe" and "Life After People."

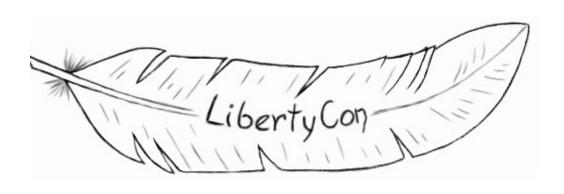
Travis has briefed the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI), the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) staff, Undersecretaries of Defense, the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and staff and/or directors of the following: DDCIs, DDNROs, ONI, SOLIC, SOCOM, DIA, CIA, DDR&E, NSA, NGA, AFRL, DARPA, NOAA, NASA.

We ran into Travis at Con\*Stellation in 2010, where he gave us a sneak peek at a project that he had been working on. To give you an idea of what this man is like, the way he introduced it to us was wearing a Motley Crue tour shirt and holding a Bud Light. You might have thought that he would be talking about the Titans' last game, but instead he gave us a 'rough cut' preview of a new show that he was developing for the National Geographic Channel called "Rocket City Rednecks." In the summer of 2011, the show was announced as a new series which featured Travis and his gang of solving real world problems by combining redneck ingenuity with advanced engineering and physics. The show was on the air for two years and was a great watch. If you haven't seen it, I would highly recommend it. After all, how many times do you get to see someone develop anti-IED vehicle armor made from Home Depot materials and a bunch of empty beer cans? (I know how it sounds, but you HAVE to watch the show)

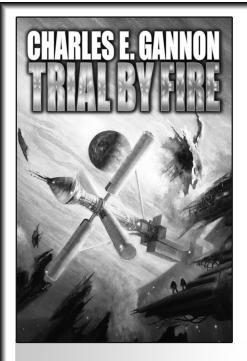
If that isn't enough for you, Travis is also a black belt martial artist, private pilot, scuba diver, mountain bike racer, triathlon competitor, and has been the lead singer & rhythm guitarist of several hard rock bands. He and his wife, Karen, have two fantastic kids, 9 year old Kalista Jade and 5 year old Jase Lucas.

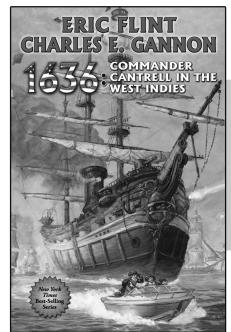
The best part is, Travis is one of the nicest guys you will ever meet. Truly. So go to a panel and hang out with LC27's Science Guest of Honor. The mad scientist panel is especially fun, but bring all the beer you will want, because you will not want to leave for even a minute! (You might want to even bring an extra, since Travis probably won't want to leave either).

-Brandy & Derek Spraker (lifting liberally from Wikipedia)









#### 21st Century Blue Collar Heroes vs. 17th Century Pirates!

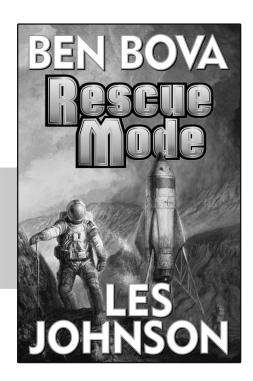
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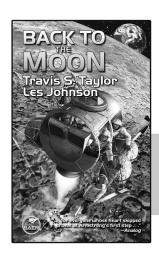
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# David Cherry

#### Special Guest

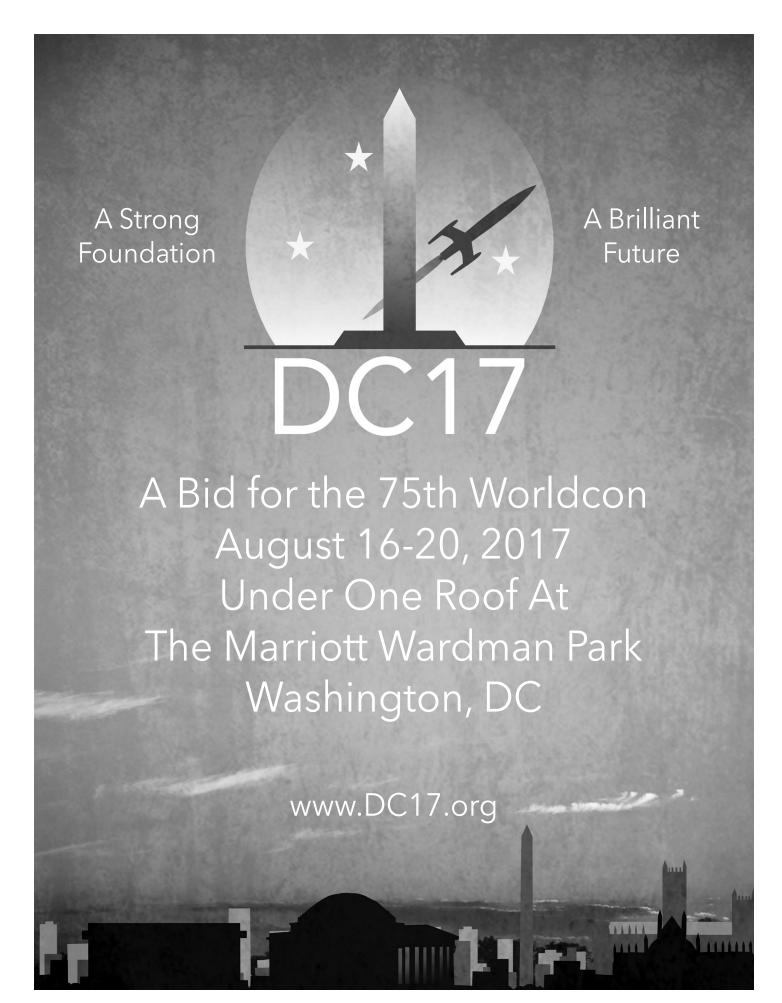
David Cherry's first Artist Guest of Honor spot was at a ChattaCon at The Read House, presided over by Tim Bolgeo, almost 30 years ago. He is honored to appear at LibertyCon this year with his daughter, Kassandra, as Special Guests. This time with Brandy presiding. David has been many things over the years, but the terms artist and illustrator describe him best. Career-wise, that is where his heart is.

David started out in life as an attorney in Oklahoma. Seven years later he had had enough of arguing every day with people who were paid to disagree with him. So, he taught himself how to



paint and began a career as an illustrator, specializing in fantasy and science fiction. For the next 18 years he did book covers, magazine covers, book interiors, calendars, game cards [Magic: The Gathering, Dune, Lord of the Rings, Wheel of Time, etc.], collectible plate designs, and established himself as one of the top artists in his field. He was AGOH at several cons each year, won just about every major award available to sf illustrators, served twice as President of the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists, and was honored to present a slideshow of his work to The Fellows of The Smithsonian. The one award that eluded him was the Hugo for Best Professional Artist. He was closing in on it (largely due to the support of fans and friends in Chattanooga and Atlanta) when life took another turn and he ended up leaving freelance illustration to become Senior Concept Artist and, later, Marketing Artist for Ensemble Studios, a game developer in Dallas, Texas. For the next 9 years, he worked in the game industry, helping to ship titles such as Age of Mythology, Age of Empires III, and Halo Wars. He became proficient at digital art, both 2D and 3D. Then, in 2009, when Ensemble closed its doors, David became Professor Cherry at The Guildhall at SMU, a graduate school for people who want to work in the game development industry. There, he became head of the Art Department, rewrote the Art curriculum from top to bottom, and was head of the Masters Degree program for all artists.

He has been in Texas, and he has been busy. But all that time, he wanted two things: to get back to Oklahoma and to get back to freelance illustration. In 2013 he moved to Norman, Oklahoma, bought a nice house with a koi pond, and set about redesigning his life to get back into freelance art. Life has taken him full circle. But this time things are a bit different. Now he has a partner: his daughter, Kassandra Leigh Cherry. She is attending The University of Oklahoma in Norman, majoring in Italian and Japanese. But her real goal in life is to become an artist like her Dad and a writer like her Aunt Carolyn. Just like her father, so many years ago, her first appearance as a guest is in Chattanooga. She is still a student, still has much to learn. But we know she has a great career ahead of her. Years from now she will look back on this convention as the start of it all. That is how these things work.



# Jim Minz

### Master of Ceremonies

Jim Minz is a Green Bay Packers fan. We know this because he wears a Packer's jersey on casual Fridays at the Baen Books offices. Also, non-casual Fridays, and any other day, especially during football season. This is not a problem for us. He is also a University of Wisconsin partisan, and this does cause more conflict, as otherwise we are strictly an SEC/ACC office. We try not to rub it in during bowl season, and he doesn't mention sports to the rest of us during hockey season.



Jim started his career, as so many of us did, interning for editor Jim Frenkel, while still a student at the University of Wisconsin--Madison. Jim was busy in college, also meeting and marrying his wife, Sondi, with whom he now lives in North Carolina with their three children.

After Wisconsin, Minz made the move to New York City and worked for Tor Books and Del Rey before joining the Baen team as an acquiring editor and director of the sub-rights program.

He is also a big, burly dude, a bear of a man (or should that be Badger?—never mind), and incredibly knowledgeable about the field of SF, from bad, bad movies to good, good books. He has been a World Fantasy Awards judge, a speaker at the Superstars Writing Seminars (and many other writers workshops), and is still an enthusiastic gamer when he gets the chance. Jim will be one of the judges of the forthcoming inaugural Baen Fantasy Adventure Award, which not coincidentally will be presented at the premiere gaming convention, GenCon, this year. Submissions, by the way, are open until June 30th—but each short story will be judged anonymously, so schmoozing with Jim at the con will not help your chances, and must be considered its own reward.

Jim can often be found happily hosting a Baen room party, raising a glass in the hotel bar with a crowd of authors around him, or leading beer crawls, and he is assiduously studying his scotches at the elbow of Barfly 'Speaker to Lab Animals'. Ask him about his rating of "three thumbs up."

All of these qualities, and more, make Jim a wonderful editor of science fiction. All of these qualities, too, will make him a wonderful master of ceremonies for LibertyCon. Enjoy him!

- Toni Weisskopf

## Also Keep An Eye Out For These Guys

Here are some of the other pros scheduled to attend LibertyCon 27 as of printing, though this list is subject to change without notice.

**Atlanta Radio Theater Company:** ARTC is a professional troupe that brings "new old-time radio", complete with lush soundscapes, stirring music, and original stories guaranteed to remind you that... *There is Adventure in Sound!* 

**Larry Atchley, Jr.:** Larry Atchley Jr. is a writer of primarily science fiction, fantasy, horror, and poetry. He is a co-host on the radio show Dangerous Minds at <a href="https://www.tmvcafe.com">www.tmvcafe.com</a> and a member of the piratical poetry group The Seadog Slam. Blog: The Short Pale Writer in the Long Black Coat at <a href="https://www.larryatchleyjr.wordpress.com">www.larryatchleyjr.wordpress.com</a>.

**Glenn Baggott:** Glenn lives in Mount Juliet, TN with his wife Janet, sons Conlin and Chris. He works at West Wilson Utility as a grade IV operator. He opened for Rod Stewart with the Nashville Pipe and Drums. He reads urban fantasy, fantasy, and SF. Volunteers at church and teaches Sunday School.

**Scott W. Baker:** Scott W. Baker writes science fiction stories, a few of which have appeared in Escape Pod, Daily Science Fiction, the Writers of the Future anthology, and other great places. He enjoys donuts, time travel, and long walks in low gravity. He lives in Tennessee with his daughter.

**L. R. Barrett-Durham:** L. R. Barrett-Durham is taking the reading world by storm with over half a dozen novels varying in genres of epic fantasy, paranormal romance, sci-fi, horror, and children's literature. She's a "Jane-of-all-Trades" and is best known for her Geeky Stained Glass, a new twist on an old world trade.

**Barbara Beck:** B. J. Beck is a costume designer, fencing champion, and aspiring writer. Her first fantasy novel, *The Fields Where Soldiers Play,* was released in April 2014, and its sequel is scheduled for August. She's attended conventions for 35 years, which may explain why you'll see her on the home-brewing panel.

**Jim Beall:** Jim Beall (BS-Math, MBA, PE) has been a nuclear engineer for 40+ years, a wargamer for 50+, and an avid reader of science fiction for even longer. Experience: operations (nuclear officer USN), design (Duke Power), construction (United Engineers & Constructors), inspection (USNRC), and energy policy (USNRC Commissioner Reactors Assistant).

**Michael Bielaczyc:** Michael Bielaczyc has been making art his whole life. In fact, he doesn't spend much time not creating new things. He is a founder and lead make up FX artist at Aradani Studios, creating masks and appliances for people all across the world. He is also a painter, designer and writer. See his work at <a href="michaelbielaczyc.com">michaelbielaczyc.com</a>

**Paul Bielaczyc:** Chesley Award winning artist Paul Bielaczyc co-owns Aradani Studios with his brother Mike, a costuming and art company founded in 2002. Based in Nashville, they travel mostly in the Southeast United States, to various conventions and Renaissance Festivals, selling (in their words) "our art, and our ears".

**Richard T. Bolgeo:** "Uncle Timmy" Bolgeo is the Founder and Chairman Emeritus of LibertyCon. A retired Electrical Engineer from TVA, he is a *Rebel Award Winner*, Pundit

and Editor-in-Chief of the weekly Ezine "The Revenge of Hump Day!" He was Fan GOH at MidSouthCon 32.

**Walt Boyes:** By day, Walt Boyes is an award-winning journalist, analyst and authority on manufacturing and automation. By night, he is the Bananaslug of Baen's bar and writes science fiction, fantasy, and alternate history. A Grantville Gazette Editorial Board member, he is writing a 1632 novel with Eric Flint and Rick Boatright, and the 1632 Companion with his wife, Joy Ward.

**Susan Brady:** A self-professed jack-of-all-trades, Susan Brady has been involved with the Make It and Take It since LibertyCon 4. MITI originally began as a mask workshop, but has expanded a bit into bags, fairy wings, and basically anything your imagination can create! So bring that imagination, we'll provide all the sparkles, feathers and crafty bits!

**Eric S. Brown:** Eric S Brown is the author of numerous books including the Bigfoot War series, Kaiju Apocalypse (with Jason Cordova), and War of the Worlds Plus Blood Guts and Zombies. He also scripts comic books and write an ongoing column about the world of comic books.

**David L. Burkhead:** In addition to his previous Science Fiction and Fantasy publications, David L. Burkhead has recently ventured into self publishing with the electronic releases of his Novelettes "Live to Tell", "EMT", and others. He is a physicist working in Atomic Force Microscopy and surface science.



Picnics, Movie Nights, Nature Trail Walks, Socials, Local Lectures, Road Trips, Adopt-A-Highway cleanup, Chattanooga Area Food Bank collections and more.

Many Kid friendly activities too.



We are a social, educational, and service organization for all atheists, agnostics, skeptics, rational thinkers, and friends in the Chattanooga, TN and North GA area. Come hang out sometime, in person or online.

**Paul Cagle:** Paul Cagle is the author of Paranormal Journeys, hosts the Ænigma Project radio show and the SEPS Paranormal Podcast and loves all things paranormal. He's also working on his upcoming series The Shadow-Borne Chronicles, to be released soon. You can find more about Paul at <a href="https://www.sepsparanormal.org">www.sepsparanormal.org</a>.

**Anna Grace Carpenter:** A.G. Carpenter has authored over a dozen short stories appearing in Daily Science Fiction, Nature Magazine's "Futures", Abyss & Apex, Crowded Magazine, Stupefying Stories and *The Beast Within 4: Gears and Growls*. Carpenter's first novella, "Brass Stars" - an SF western, was published by Eggplant Literary Productions in November, 2013.

**Rigel Carson:** Formerly a contract scientist for the U.S. Army and a freelance reporter, Southern author Rigel Carson, the pen name of Maggie Toussaint, is multi-published in suspense and mystery books. Rigel's science fiction trilogy is an ecothriller set in a futuristic Earth. Visit Rigel at <a href="http://www.rigelcarson.com">http://www.rigelcarson.com</a>

**Sabrina Chase:** Sabrina Chase is a software test developer, writer, and recovering physicist residing in the Pacific Northwest. She usually describes her writing style as "two-fisted tales of space adventure" (*The Scent of Metal*, the Sequoyah trilogy) but has also committed fantasy (*The Last Mage Guardian, Firehearted*). Her latest book is gaslamp fantasy *The Dragonhunters*.

**Stephen Euin Cobb:** Stephen Euin Cobb is an author, futurist and host of the award-winning podcast *The Future And You*. A contributing editor for *Space and Time Magazine*, he's been a regular contributor for *Robot*, *H*+, *Grim Couture* and *Port Iris* magazines, and for 3 years was a columnist and contributing editor for *Jim Baen's Universe Magazine*.

**David B. Coe/D.B. Jackson:** David B. Coe/D.B. Jackson is the award-winning author of fifteen fantasy novels. As D.B. Jackson he writes the Thieftaker Chronicles, a blend of urban fantasy, mystery, and historical fiction. As David B. Coe he is working on the Weremyste Cycle, an urban fantasy to be published by Baen.

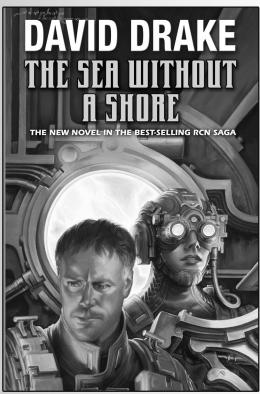
**Jason Cordova:** A military veteran, Jason Cordova has traveled extensively throughout the world. In his spare time, he reads all sorts of literature, especially science fiction and alternate history. He also paints toy soldiers. Please, no "40 Year Old Virgin" jokes. He's heard them all. He currently resides in Virginia.

**Meriah L. Crawford:** Meriah Crawford is a writer, an assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, and a private investigator. Meriah's published writing includes short stories, a variety of non-fiction work, and a poem about semi-colons. Meriah also coedited the anthology Trust & Treachery: Tales of Power and Intrigue. For more information, visit www.mlcrawford.com.

**Loren Damewood:** Loren Damewood has been tying knots for most of his life, and delights in teaching others his methods. The interesting aspect of this is that he sometimes uses precious metal instead of string, and the results are rather unusual jewelry.

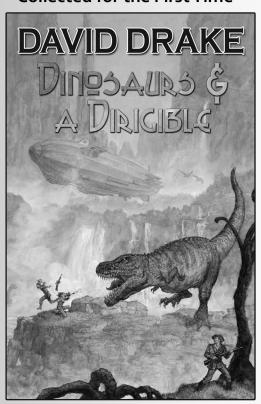
**K. S. Daniels:** K. S. Daniels writes dystopian and military SF. Her novel, *The Valkryie Profiles*, was a quarter-finalist in Amazon's 2013 Breakthough Novel Award, and the trilogy's next book will release in 2014. Her first horror short story "Chimera", will appear in the Luna's Children anthology by Dark Oak Press, in mid-2014.

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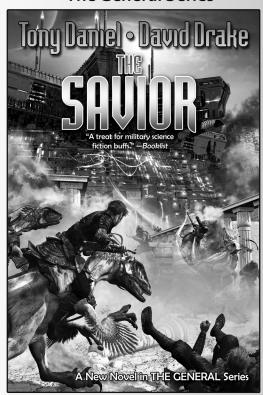
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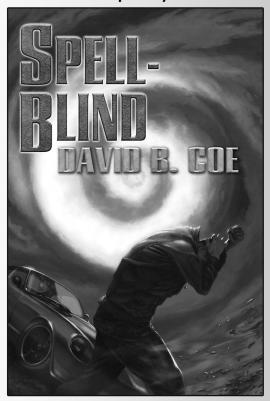
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**Anna Kathryn Davis:** Anna Kathryn Davis is a young-adult fiction author from Birmingham, Alabama. Her first novel, The Gifted, released in Spring of 2013 and its sequel, The Claimed, is tentatively set to release in late 2015. For more information on Anna and the series, visit her website at <a href="https://www.AnnaKathrynDavis.com">www.AnnaKathrynDavis.com</a>!

**Ben Davis:** Dr. Ben Davis holds a Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics and an M.S. in Nuclear Astrophysics from the University of Notre Dame. He is a former college professor of mathematics, programming, astronomy and physics. He has a successful career in software development and engineering. His interests include history, futurism and skepticism.

**Ernest Dempsey:** Ernest Dempsey is an inspirational blogger and author of up-tempo action/adventure thrillers, as well as the cutting edge science fiction Dream Rider series. You can find his books and read his blog posts at <a href="http://ernestdempsey.net">http://ernestdempsey.net</a> or follow him on twitter @ErnDempsey.

**Michaux Dempster:** Born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Michaux Dempster is an Assistant Professor of Focused Inquiry at Virginia Commonwealth University. She has fiction in *Millennium* and *Trust and Treachery: Tales of Power and Intrigue*, and is a regular reviewer for *Blackbird*, VCU's journal of literature and the arts.

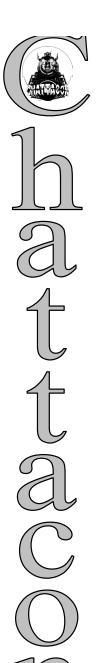
**David Drake:** Dave Drake was drafted out of Duke Law School and became an interrogator in Vietnam and Cambodia. He returned to finish school and to practice for eight years while he wrote fiction to control his anger. Since 1981 he has been a full-time writer. He has stayed out of jail.

**Bill Fawcett:** Bill Fawcett has been writing and editing SF since his years at Mayfair Games in the early 80s. He has edited or co-edited over 40 Science Fiction anthologies including a Nebula anthology. As "Quinn Fawcett", he has coauthored the Mycroft Holmes and Madame Vernet mystery novels. His non-fiction books include two oral histories of the US Navy SEALs and a number of non-fiction books on mistakes in history. He is also a game and computer game designer.

**Sam Flegal:** Sam's been an Illustrator since 2009. Clients include AEG, Fantasy Flight, & Hero Games. As an illustrator for book covers & games, he paints strange scenes of epic fantasy & graphic horror. Sam loves Norse Myths, which he focuses on in his personal work. Sam's preferred medium is oil paint.

**Fritz Fotovich:** Fritz has teamed up with Daniel TATDAD Jean and, for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running, has brought Freakin Terrific Games to add to the Liberty Con programming events. This year, Freakin Terrific Games has brought: Giant Sized Cthulhu Dice, Giant Sized Zombie Dice, Con Family Feud, and Con Celebrity Jeopardy.

**Rick Fridrick:** Rick Fridrick is representing "The Big Bang Life" a group of fellow friends and nerds from the Knoxville area who have a passion for anything and everything nerdy, such as going to conventions, cosplay, video games, comic books, and sci-fi/fantasy literature and films. This is the link to their site: http://thebigbanglife.com.



# Chattacon XL

January 30-February 2, 2015 Chattanooga Choo-Choo Hotel Chattanooga, TN

Guests of Honor Julie Czerneda Kathleen Goonan

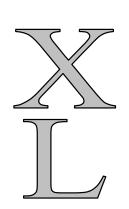
Artist Guest of Honor Alan Clark David Deitrick

> Special Guest Adam-Troy Castro

> > Toastmistress
> > Wendy Webb

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**Mark Fults:** Been busy finishing 'The Veiled Unknown" tarot and two graphic novels, one of which will be displayed at Liberty. Last year the Iron Artist panel inspired me to do a character based on Lady Liberty with a Wonder Woman twist - now she's got chops! My next book 'Chattanooga Chills: Scream Louder 'is in production and I'll be sharing stories!

**Charles E. Gannon:** Distinguished Professor & Fulbrighter Charles E. Gannon's Nebulanominated *Fire With Fire* won the Compton Crook award and his other novels (*Ring of Fire* and *Starfire* series) have been National & Wall Street Journal Bestsellers. His book *Rumors of War & Infernal Machines* won the 2006 ALA Choice Award. He has been an SME on the Discovery Channel, NPR, & at various TLAs.

**Melissa Gay:** Melissa Gay's background is like the world of Thundarr the Barbarian-- full of super-science and sorcery. Formerly an illustrator for both scientific and New Age publishers, role-playing games are her true love. Games featuring her art include The Dresden Files RPG, Firefly, Trail of Cthulhu, Elves of Uteria, and more.

**Peter Grant:** Peter Grant was born and raised in South Africa, serving in the military and working in the IT industry and humanitarian concerns before being ordained as a pastor. He immigrated to the USA in 1997, later marrying a pilot from Alaska. They live in Tennessee, where he writes full-time.

**Ed Graham:** Ed's a retired Air Force NCO of 24 years who first learned how to home brew from his parents, who learned it from theirs (ad infinitum). He resides in a sleepy farming village in SW Oklahoma with his 1955 Garand and a new, 10 gallon fermentation chamber.

**Richard Groller:** Richard Groller writes fiction and non-fiction. He is co-author of *The Warrior's Edge* and contributing author to *The American Warrior*. He has been published in 5 volumes of the *Heroes in Hell* series; two volumes of *Sha'Daa: Tales of the Apocalypse* series, and the horror anthology *What Scares the Boogeyman?*.

**Michael H. Hanson:** Michael H. Hanson created the ongoing SHA'DAA shared-world anthology series, has published two collections of poetry ("Autumn Blush" and "Jublant Whispers"), and has stories in the recent four volumes of Janet Morris's long-running Heroes-in-Hell, Bangsian fantasy series. He is a Staff Editor at The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

**Louise Herring-Jones:** Louise Herring-Jones writes speculative and historical fiction, humor and nonfiction. Her stories have appeared in anthologies, most recently in Dreams of Steam: Vol. 4, Gizmos (Dark Oak Press/Kerlak Publishing, 2013). She is a veteran reporter for The Daily Dragon Online. An advocate for constitutionally protected freedoms, she practices law in Alabama.

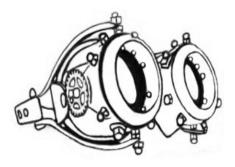
**Dan Hollifield:** I run Aphelion Webzine, online since 1997, as a writer's workshop freezine. I've made a few pro sales of my writing so far, the biggest being an upcoming collection of my spaceport bar short stories from Dark Oak Press. I have 3 music albums out, and am an Atlanta-area steampunk.

**G.R. Holton:** I fell in love with writing a multi-genre style seven years ago after the urging of a friend. Since then I have written five other books and won four different literary awards. I am also a screenwriter with six titles to my name and an actor with a production company and a local theater troupe.

**Bob Hood:** Rev. Bob Hood was recruited into Steve Jackson's Men In Black in late 2005, after two existing MIBs found him wandering the halls of a convention with a tote bag stuffed with card games. He now maintains the SJ Games website from the darkness of his secluded hilltop cave.

**Daniel M. Hoyt:** Dan has sold stories to such venues as Analog, Esther Friesner's suburban fantasy anthologies ("Witch Way to the Mall", "Strip Mauled", and "Fangs for the Mammaries"), and Mike Brotherton's NSF-funded online anthology "Diamonds in the Sky". He has edited 2 anthologies for DAW, "Fate Fantastic" and "Better Off Undead."

**Robert A. Hoyt:** Robert A. Hoyt was first professionally published at 13 and qualified for SFWA professional status two years later. His novels Cat's Paw and Operation Santa are indie published. He's also the author of the infamous Ninja Nun Comics.



**Sarah A. Hoyt:** Sarah's first and true love is Space Opera. The Prometheus Award Winning (2011) Darkship Thieves has been followed by the Prometheus Award Finalist Darkship Renegades and by A Few Good Men the first of a sister series, The Earth Revolution. Upcoming in the two series are Darkship Revenge and Through Fire.

# CONtraflow

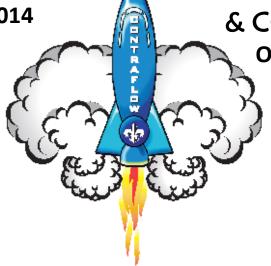
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2015 Pre-Registration: \$40 through Dec 31, 2014; \$45 through Aug 31, 2015; \$50 at the Door (Special Rates apply for kids, students, & military)

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**Daniel "Tatdad" Jean:** Tatdad has teamed up with Fritz Fotovich and, for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running, has brought Freakin Terrific Games to add to the Liberty Con programming events. This year, Freakin Terrific Games has brought: Giant Sized Cthulhu Dice, Giant Sized Zombie Dice, Con Family Feud, and Con Celebrity Jeopardy.

**Les Johnson:** Les is a scientist, an author, and the Deputy Manager for NASA's Advanced Concepts Office. He thrice received NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medal and has three patents. His novel, "Rescue Mode" (with Ben Bova) was just released by Baen and he served as a technical consultant for the movie "Europa Report."

**Paula Jordan:** Paula S. Jordan has published two stories in Analog. Her novelette "Vooorh" appears there soon. As a NASA orbit analyst she supported 30+ missions, including the Clementine mission that first detected water on the moon. Now deep into her first *real* novel, she blogs regularly at DarkCargo.com. On Twitter @PaulaSJWriter

**Robert Kennedy:** Robert Kennedy is a senior systems engineer working in green energy/ econ & geoengineering. He co-founded the Tennessee Valley Interstellar Workshop, worked for the House Subcommittee on Space, published a Soviet space encyclopaedia, and has been published by Russian Academy of Sciences, Heinlein Journal, JBIS, Whole Earth Review, Smithsonian Air & Space, and Acta Astronautica.

**Bart Kemper:** Bart Kemper is a Professional Engineer and based in Louisiana. When he is not there, he is somewhere else, such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, or Washington State. He's a writer, soldier, engineer, photographer, father, inventor, and problem solver. Using explosives. No boom today. Maybe boom tomorrow.

**Jeremy Levitt:** Jeremy "Cubby's Handler" Levitt is a retired Marine trucker who served in Afghanistan. He is an avid Military Sci-Fi reader and has been voted "Most likely to egg-on the Apocalypse" by his friends. He currently works as a machinist and lives in East Tennessee with his wife Maggie and service dog Cubby.

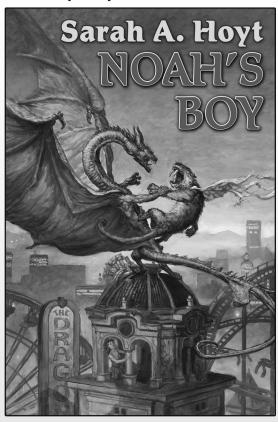
**D. Alan Lewis:** Chattanooga native, D. Alan Lewis's debut novel, *The Blood in Snowflake Garden* was a 2010 Claymore Award finalist. Alan's other books include, *The Lightning Bolts of Zeus* and *The Bishop of Port Victoria*. He is the editor of *Capes & Clockwork*, the 2 *Luna's Children anthologies*, and has published numerous short stories.

**Robert Lightfoot:** Robert "Sam" Lightfoot, Ph.D. is an active social scientist, researching in archaeology, anthropology, and sociology. He also studies medieval weapons and teaches judo.

**Tamara Lowery:** Tamara A. Lowery is functionally insane; a prerequisite for being a multi-genre author. She is local to the Chattanooga area, writes adventure-horror, dabbles in steampunk, works full time in the auto industry, resides with one husband and two cats known as the Rottentots, and still manages to remain at large.

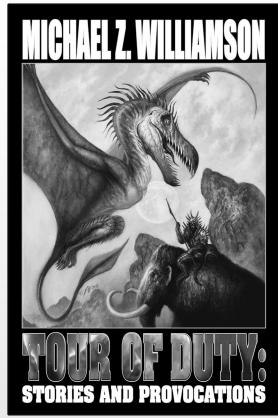
**Cindy MacLeod:** I do many things, and here are some of them: Vice-Chair, AnachroCon; Former Director of the Alternate History Track, Dragon\*Con (2009-11); Author of "The Big Golden Apple", published in Dreams Of Steam 2: Of Bolts And Brass, 2011; Author of the novel Some Unforeseen Event, serialized in Steampunk Tales Magazine.

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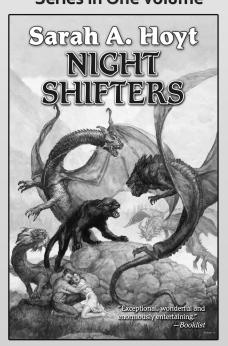
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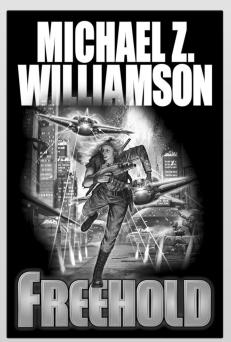


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**John Manning:** Author of one novel (*Black Stump Ridge*) and five short stories ("Disclaimer;" "Showdown at Brimstone Arsenal;" "Just Dessert;" "Asylum;" and "Breaking Up is Hard to Do") he is also the editor of *What Scares the Boogeyman?* Released in 2013. He lives with his wife, De Anna, in the Chattanooga area.

**Gail Z. Martin:** Gail Z. Martin wrote *Ice Forged* and *Reign of Ash* (2014) in The Ascendant Kingdoms Saga (Orbit), The Chronicles of The Necromancer series (Solaris) and The Fallen Kings Cycle (Orbit), plus new urban fantasy novel, *Deadly Curiosities* (Solaris, 2014) as well as two ebook series: *The Jonmarc Vahanian Adventures* and the *Deadly Curiosities Adventures*.

**Todd McCaffrey:** Todd Johnson McCaffrey wrote his first science-fiction story when he was twelve. He has written eight books in the Pern universe. Recent works include *The One Tree of Luna (And Other Stories)*, and *City of Angels*. Visit his website at <a href="http://www.toddmccaffrey.org">http://www.toddmccaffrey.org</a>

**Holly McClure:** Founder of Sullivan Maxx Literary Agency which was recently acquired by Lexium Entertainment & Talent Agency and reorganized as the literary and film division of the company. Holly stayed on as president of that division. She is published internationally in both fiction and nonfiction, writing thrillers, YA, mystery and inspirational.

**Jack McDevitt:** Eleven of Jack McDevitt's nineteen novels have been Nebula finalists. *Seeker* won in 2007, and *Omega* received the Campbell Award for 2003's best science fiction novel. His most recent books are *The Cassandra Project* (with Mike Resnick), and *Starhawk*. McDevitt has been a naval officer and an English teacher.

**Anita Moore:** Still occasionally known for her SciFi/Fantasy & Cthulhu Mythos art, in the past decade, Anita has become a well sought after artist of 3D environments custom created for table top strategy games, Role Playing Games, displays, and dioramas. Anita lives Dalton, GA where her Foofighterubu Wargame Terrain Studio is established.

**Darrell "Doc" Osborn:** Controlled chaos ensues when Darrell "Doc" Osborn takes over the Con! Trapped in a time that is not his own, he is bent on Complete World Domination through the use of haphazardly flaky experiments and uses convention attendees as laboratory rats to carry-out his diabolic schemes! Warning! Doctor Osborn will be unleashing his Balloon Animals of Evil!

**Stephanie Osborn:** Two-decade veteran of civilian and military space programs, Stephanie Osborn worked numerous Space Shuttle flights and International Space Station, including training astronauts, Spacelab and ISS operations, variable star astrophysics, Martian aeolian geophysics, radiation physics, NBC weapons effects. Stephanie holds graduate and undergraduate degrees in astronomy, physics, chemistry and mathematics and is "fluent" in geology, meteorology, and anatomy.

**Beth Waggoner Patterson:** Beth Patterson has been a self-employed musician, songwriter, and recording artist for over two decades, before sidestepping into the world of fiction writing. She currently resides in the French Quarter of New Orleans, where she partakes of good food, observes the absurd, and attempts to blend in with the shrubbery.

**pdmac:** pdmac began his writing career as a poet, publishing in numerous small literary journals. Transitioning to fiction, he has had stories published in *Short Story America*, Vol. 3 & 4, and the recent Perseid Press anthology *Poets in Hell*. His science fiction novel *Wolf 359* was released this spring, with his second novel due out later this fall.

**Kevin Pulliam:** Kevin Pulliam is an Engineer with the U.S. Army in Huntsville AL and has earned degrees in both Rocket Science and Helicopter Engineering. He is an occasional volunteer editor at the Internet Science Fiction Database (isfdb.org) and has been making beer in his kitchen/garage since 2007.

**Louis Puster:** Louis has been gripped by conflict between practicality and his creative spirit for his entire life. Over the last several years, he has been mostly focused on defeating a dark fantasy series, The Saga of Ukumog. It is a battle that may rage for many years to come.

**T.D. Raufson:** Project Manager for most of his childhood, Raufson still looks forward to growing up to be a successful author. He pursues this dream daily with the mostly benevolent voices in his head. Meet those voices in Legacy of Dragons: Emergence, or his recently released mid-grade novella The Queen's Yeoman.

**John Ringo:** New York Times best-selling author John Ringo created the military-SF series The Posleen Wars, with over a million copies in print. He is author of The Council War SF-adventure saga; contemporary fantasies Princess of Wands and Queen of Wands; and national best-selling techno-thrillers The Last Centurion and the Ghost series. New works include the Troy Rising series, and Under a Graveyard Sky.

**Miriam Ringo:** Tagline - Crazy cat lady with blue hair. Introduction - Daughter of a Baptist minister. Wife of a Science Fiction writer. Love Gothic music. Collect skulls and special needs kitties. Life-long learner. Bragging rights - Married to John Ringo.

**Tedd Roberts:** Dr. Tedd Roberts is a Neuroscientist whose cutting edge research on memory encoding has led to a "Neural Prosthetic" to restore memory function following brain injury. He is committed to public science education via blogging (Teddy's Rat Lab), Science articles for Baen Books, short fiction and convention appearances.

**Richard T. Rorabaugh:** Affectionately known as Ric because he dropped the hard part off. He is a former army brat, submariner, and children's entertainer. He teaches Middle School language arts and is the author of the fantasy novel, Beyond. He has a Master's in education administration and is pursuing a doctorate in e-learning.

**Robert A. Rosenberg:** Robert A. Rosenberg has been a SciFi fan for over 50 years and has attended LibertyCon for over 20 years. At conventions, he sheds his mundane identity to turn into his Fan Persona of HAL9001 (named in honor of the original Sentient Computer from the 2001 Book and Movie Series).

**Ken Roy:** Ken Roy is an engineer who lives and works amid the relics of the Manhattan Project in Oak Ridge. He has published technology speculation pieces in such venues as the Journal for the British Planetary Society, and the United States Naval Institute Proceedings. His current interests include terraforming and geoengineering.

**Cedar Sanderson:** Cedar Sanderson is studying to be a Mad Scientist. Her writing is published by Stonycroft Publishing, Naked Reader Press, and Something Wicked. Novels include Vulcan's Kittens, Pixie Noir, and Trickster Noir (May 2014). She blogs for Mad Genius Club and cedarwrites.com.

**Stephen J. Simmons:** Stephen is – in no particular order – a retired Navy submariner, the fifth kid in a large family from a small town, an inveterate punster, and a musical-theatre addict. He took up writing because his children no longer listen to his stories, and the cats never laughed at the funny bits.

Sumie Tsuboi: Born in Nagoya, Japan, Sumie Tsuboi came to the US to study English full

time where she met her then husband-tobe. Soon after graduation she obtained employment at Subaru of Indiana Automotive where she puts her knowledge of twin cultures to use.

**Cathe Smith:** Cathe Smith is currently a Masters' student in Entomology at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. She has been on various LibertyCon science panels in the past, and is looking forward to meeting other crafting fans at the Sit and Stitch session.

Chris Smith: Chris has been involved in the beer industry for sixteen years, and has done everything except brew it. He started DraftTex Draught Services in 2001, maintaining, servicing, and installing equipment for accounts in San Antonio and surrounding areas, as well as national chains such as BJ's Brewhouse, Applebee's, Chili's, and Buffalo Wild Wings.

Patrick Vanner: Patrick A. Vanner, Author, Marine, Government Supervisor, Husband, Father, Servant to 6 cats; currently on the run from Baen Bounty-Hunters for overdue manuscripts. Last seen feverishly typing away at his lap-top in hopes of having at least 1 new book



for LibertyCon. Stressed, overworked, overtired, and addicted to his PS3 and Anime. Poor B#\$%@\*\$.

**Mark Wandrey:** Hailing from rural Tennessee, Mark Wandrey is a US Customs and logistics expert who just also happens to be a writer specializing in Military Sci-fi and hard Sci-fi. His current series, Earth Song, has three books already out with four more to come. Caution, worlds under construction!

**James Ward:** James Ward is a Chattanooga based artist who is well known for putting paint on anything that's not bolted down. You can find his artwork on everything from feathers to floppy disks, to include costuming accessories. James is also an accomplished puppeteer, whose performances will entertain our young (or young at heart) LibertyCon attendees.

**John Watts:** John Watts is the owner and president of Gypsy Knights Games which produces the Clement Sector setting for use with the Traveller RPG. John lives with his wife Wendy and their two cats in Ringgold, GA.

**Toni Weisskopf:** Toni Weisskopf Reinhardt is the publisher of Baen Books. Under the name T.K.F. Weisskopf with Josepha Sherman she compiled and annotated the definitive volume of subversive children's folklore, *Greasy Grimy Gopher Guts*. A graduate of Oberlin College with a degree in anthropology, she is the mother of a delightful daughter. She lives in a balanced household of three cats and three dogs.

**Philip Wohlrab:** I am a serving medic in the Army. I have a combined 11 years of service in 2 services starting in the Coast Guard and continuing in the Army. I have completed 2 tours to Iraq. Today I am an instructor teaching medic re-certification and the disease portion of field sanitation school.

**Jim Woosley:** Dr. Jim Woosley has been in fandom for forty years. His PhD is in elementary particle physics, and he has spent almost thirty years working with nuclear radiation detection, propulsion, launch safety, hazardous chemical risks, and ballistic injury as a contractor in Huntsville and Memphis.



Michael Z. Williamson: Michael Z. Williamson is an SF author, military consultant, and Editor at Large for Survivalblog. His novels include the popular Freehold universe, and "The Hero" (with John Ringo). He has consulted for productions on Discovery Networks, the Outdoor Channel, and National Geographic. He can be found online at www.MichaelZWilliamson.com

**Tim Zahn:** Timothy Zahn has published forty-five novels, including ten set in the *Star Wars* universe. His latest books are *Cobra Slave*, the first of the *Cobra Rebellion Trilogy*, and *Star Wars: Scoundrels*. Upcoming books include *Cobra Outlaw* and *A Call to Duty*, the first of the Manticore Ascendant series with co-author David Weber.

### Our Dealers

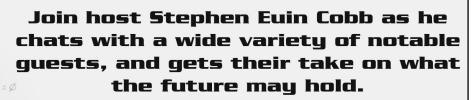
Hours: Fri: 3:00pm - 8:00pm

Sat: 10:00am - 6:00pm Sun: 10:00am - 3:00pm

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Vice-Chair:	Derek Spraker	Treasurer:	Melvin Baumgardner
Registration:	Matt Fanny	Hospitality:	Michael Ankenbrandt
Programming:	Rich Groller	Secretary:	Kathy Wormsley

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Liberty Con Autographs

# In Memorian -Roseanne A. Di Fate

I first met Roseanne A. Di Fate at a WorldCon so long ago that it has faded in to the mists of my memory. But I first met her husband, Vincent Di Fate, many years ago at a party at a KublaKhan in Nashville, Tennessee we all nicked named 'Walk-a-Con' because the main hotel was at the bottom of a huge hill and all the other buildings were set into the side of the hill. According to Vin, "I don't think Ro met you until a few years later (after Confederation in 1986), after I'd spend a considerable time telling her about you." When I started LibertyCon, there was only one person I wanted for the Artist Guest of Honor (AGOH) and that was Vin. When we asked him I was looking forward to meeting his wife there. Unfortunately she didn't make it. But not long after that was when I first met "Ro" at a Worldcon and we became friends.

I always tried my best to talk her into coming to LibertyCon and finally I think she made it to LC5 when Vin was back as the AGOH. I really got the time to sit down and get to know the woman behind the man and I found out that she was just as sweet and soft spoken as her husband, a quality lady. Over the years we got to know each other better and I really looked forward to those Worldcons and LibertyCons she would be at where we could sit down and talk about family and friends. Vin once told me that she didn't really go to many other conventions very often but she always looked forward to seeing

her friends at LibertyCon. We were fortunate to have her and Vin last year at LibertyCon 26. Even though their flight was delayed for 2 days, they were gracious as always and we were all happy to get to spend even that little bit of time with them.

I am luckier than most because I not only get to meet the pros themselves, but I sometimes get to meet their spouse and become friends with them. Over the years, Ms. Ro was one of those special people who made an impact on me, my family, and my convention. The Board of Directors of LibertyCon wish to honor this special woman and it is my proud honor to announce that LibertyCon 27 will be dedicated to Mrs. Roseanne A. Di Fate.



