

Confluence, 21th Pittsburgh SF Convention Friday, July 24-Sunday, July 26, 2009 Guest of Honor: John Scalzi
Featured Filk: More Difficulties
Doubletree, Pittsburgh Airport, Hotel Map

Kaffeeklatches are small group discussions with authors. These are held in rooms 224/225. Sign-up at Registration is required.

Autograph sessions are located in the Main Level Foyer.

The Sycamore room is available for informal discussion and program item overflow on Saturday and Sunday.

Room Locations:

LL– Lower Level ML– Main (Lobby) Level

Kaffeeklatches – 224/225 **Con Suite** – 625

Friday, July 24, 2009

4:00pm

[Redwood-LL] Filk by Sybil: Writing Better Songs By Suppressing Your Competing Agendas and Alternate Personalities We've all heard them: songs that could have been so much better if they hadn't been written by the Storyteller, the Teacher, the Missionary, and others. *Randy Hoffman*

[Maple-LL] Video: Cosmos: A Personal Voyage (1980) An episode of the award-winning science series with Carl Sagan. I miss him

4:30pm

[Redwood-LL] A Filk Mad Lib Just for Cecil Cecil Grubbs badly wants more Filk Mad Libs. So we'll do one. :-)
Randy Hoffman

5:00pm

[Salon B-ML] Dealers Room Opens (PARSEC Sales in Foyer)

[Oak-LL] Why are there so many Twits on Twitter? Do you really need to live your life online? Should you be Tweeting, Facebooking or MySpacing? What are the strengths and weaknesses of various social networks?
Laurie Mann, John Scalzi, Michelle Sagara West

[Redwood-LL] Some Stories Get All the (Filk) Love Why is it that some excellent or popular books, movies & TV shows inspire buckets of filk songs, while others inspire few? Explore the factors that make a filk-friendly story.
Cedric, Randy Hoffman, Elliott Mason

[Maple-LL] Video: Dr. Who: "The Girl in the Fireplace" (2006) Follow the Doctor through time windows to 18th century France and Madame de Pompadour. If you haven't seen this episode, you may want to as it's part of the foundation of this year's play.

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6:00pm

[Oak-LL] The Eagle Has Landed Where were you when Apollo 11 landed? What impact has the moon landing had on SF since then?

Ken Chiacchia, Fruma Klass, Laurie Mann, Charles Oberndorf

[Willow-LL] The Alpha Writer's Workshop: A Review How did it go this year and what's on the docket for next year.
David Barr Kirtley, Thomas Seay, Karina Sumner Smith, Diane Turnshek

[Redwood-LL] Pegasus Award Nominations for 2009 A sampler of possible nominees for filk's premier awards.
Randy Hoffman

[Maple-LL] Video: Serenity (2005) Also a "must see" movie to have any idea what is going on in the play on Saturday night.

7:00pm

[Oak-LL] Military SF in the Age of Terrorism Since war is less likely run by nations, what effects will non-national combatants and grandiose military statements have on the future?
Ken Chiacchia, Bill Keith, John Scalzi, Bud Sparhawk

[Willow-LL] That Won an Award? Books, stories and other; sometimes deserved, sometimes a winner because there wasn't anything else to compete. Enjoy a jaundiced retrospective. *Jim Mann, Charles Oberndorf, Mary Turzillo*

[Redwood-LL] Concert: Elliott Mason

8:00pm

Dealers Room/Art Show Close

[Willow-LL] Fan Music: Toward a Grand Alliance We'll talk about filk, dementia, nerdcore, SCA bardic music, wizard rock, etc., and in what ways the subgenres of fan music can come together instead of working at cross-purposes. *Randy Hoffman*

[Redwood-LL] Poetry Science Fiction, Fantasy and... the strange in lyric and meter with Ann Cecil, Ximons Esaias, Mary Turzillo, Geoffrey Landis, Herb Kauderer and others.

[Maple-LL] *The Good, the Bad, the Weird (2008)* Three men rob the same train in Manchuria trying to obtain a treasure map; a Korean version of a spaghetti western.

[224/225] Triangulation Party *Pete Butler and gang*

[625] Beer Tasting Featuring IPAS *Jim Mann, JJ Walton*

9:00pm

[Oak-LL] Exquisite Round Robin A round robin for "The Exquisite Corpse." Bring your imagination, humor, sense of adventure and a thesaurus. Who knows where the panelists will lead the audience. *Paul Anderson, Ken Chiacchia, Alan Irvine, James Morrow*

[Willow-LL] We Aren't All Rocket Surgeons What's Mensa all about? What makes for a good Mensan? Is there really that much cross-pollination between SF fans and Mensa members? Come find out if you yourself could be Mensable! *William Keith, Fruma Klass, Brea Ludwigson, William Tenn*

[Redwood-LL] Concert: Cedric of The Bedlam Bards

10:00pm

[Oak-LL] I Can Always Be a Fan Filk, artwork, words and films—choices for fans are limitless. If you look for something to give you the adrenal rush and rekindle your sense of wonder, it's all there. *Juanita Coulson, Alan Katerinsky, Sue Linville, Bill Mayhew*

[Redwood-LL] Concert: Rin Barton

10:30pm

[Maple-LL] Video: *The Host (2006)* Another Korean film, a monster movie. Many times better than *Cloverfield* because you actually care about the characters.

11:00pm

[Redwood-LL] Open Filking

Saturday, July 25

9:00am

[Sycamore-ML] Writing Exercises Bring paper & pen *Ade Conway*

10:00am

[Sycamore-ML] Writing Workshop (Open only to people who registered in advance) *Paul Anderson*

[Oak-LL] YA Fiction, Is That Where It's At? *Twilight, Harry Potter, The Lioness* series... SF/F/H are well rooted in "juveniles" Is it time to return to the roots? *Karina Sumner Smith, Mike Velichansky*

[Willow-LL] Magic Systems Ceremony and Earth Magic. Fairies and Wizards. Each universe is a little different. How can we decide what will work in the universe our characters are questing in? *SC Butler, John DeChancie, Kathryn Morrow*

[Walnut-LL] Art Demo: Repousse. the Art of Metal Tooling Make a piece using this technique. Materials fee: \$1.00 *Bonnie Funk*

[Maple-LL] Video: *Flatland (2007)* Based on Edwin A. Abbott's 1884 novella, this follows the journey of A Square, Attorney at law, a being of two dimensions into the third dimensional world.

[224/225] Kaffeeklatsch (Sign up at Registration) *Walter Hunt, Bud Sparhawk*

11:00am

[Salon A-ML] Who Will We Be Reading in 200 Years? A hundred years ago it was H.G. Wells & Jules Verne. Before that, Bram Stoker & Mary Shelley. These story-tellers have stood through time. Who is writing the classic future tales that will survive the future? *Lawrence Connolly, John DeChancie, James Morrow, Charles Oberndorf*

[Foyer-ML] Autographing *John Scalzi, Bud Sparhawk*

[Oak-LL] Potter Patter Discussion of the recently-released movie *Harry Potter & the Half-blood Prince* and other Potterific topics. Will JK Rowling write again? Will Daniel Radcliffe have more theatrically naked moments? And what about Hermione? *Susan Dexter, Laurie Mann, Gary Markette, Kathy Morrow*

[Willow-LL] Halloween 24/7/365 *Ricky Dick*

[Redwood-LL] Performance Theory You have a song and a voice to sing it with, or an instrument to play it with, or both. Now how do you prepare for the next step of (gulp!) performing in front of other people? Professor Pete will guide you through some of the most important things you need to be aware of. *Pete Grubbs*

12:00pm

[Salon A-ML] Folklore and the Roots of Fantasy Tolkien had Germanic, Arthurian and other sources to choose from, Rowling used French and English Medieval lore. What are other writers using? Are there untapped legends and tales? Is there a good way to plagiarize—that is, "borrow" stories, dress them up in new clothes and make them exciting for today's readers? *Susan Dexter, Alan Irvine, Bill Mayhew, Michelle Sagara West*

[Foyer-ML] Autographing *S. Andrew Swann* Page 3

[Oak-LL] Visions Highlights from *Veins* (last year's critically acclaimed supernatural thriller) and *Visions* (collection of science fiction, fantasy, and horror). Featuring live readings set to music from *Veins: The Soundtrack*, this presentation takes storytelling to a whole new level. Not to be missed! *Lawrence Connolly*

[Willow-LL] Roots of Humor — Swift to Pratchett Putting humor on paper for everyone to laugh at is a challenge. Is the best way to make a reader laugh to be a satirist? Is there humor in the most serious as there is something serious even in the most amusing? *Timons Esaias, Brea Ludwigson, Jim Morrow, Kathy Morrow*

[Redwood-LL] Concert: Clif Flynt

[Maple-LL] Video: *Wall-E* (2008) One of the best sci-fi romantic comedies. If the Academy Awards didn't relegate animated films to their own little corner, I would have had a good chance of a best film Oscar. See this film if you haven't And if you have, see it again.

[224/225] Kaffeeklatsch (Sign up at Registration) *Fruma Klass, William Tenn*

12:30pm

[Redwood-LL] Concert: Judith Hayman

1:00pm

[Salon A-ML] Movies: The Year in Review What were the best movies of 2009? Are any of these flicks Hugo or Oscar-worthy? How about the worst? What SF/fantasy movies are you most looking forward to that are due out later this year? *Eric Davin, Herb Kauderer, Charles Oberndorf, John Scalzi*

[Foyer-ML] Autographing *Walter Hunt*

[Oak-LL] Is Amazon "Kindling" a New Generation of Readers? Downloads and devices. Lots of books and stories are available for a fee on the Internet. Are all of us gutenbergs aiming at extinction? Is it inevitable that the available electronic media will phase out our crowded libraries of happy hard-copies? *Jean Goldstrom, Sue Linville, Gary Markette, Michelle Sagara West*

[Willow-LL] Dueling Storytellers Come join our master storytellers as they duke it out with words for the title of "Storyteller Supreme!" *Alan Irvine, Bill Mayhew*

[Redwood-LL] Concert: Power Salad

[Walnut-LL] Art Demo: Spinning *Susan Dexter*

[224/225] Kaffeeklatsch (Sign up at Registration) *SC Butler, Diane Turnshek*

2:00pm

[Salon A-ML] The Future of Planetary Systems What do the recent discoveries of different planet systems mean to SF writers now. If our planetary order is unusual, what will that mean in future stories? *Catherine Asaro, Geoff Landis, Susan Linville, Diane Turnshek*

[Foyer-ML] Autographing *Charles Oberndorf, Michelle Sagara West*

[Oak-LL] How Times Have Changed (Writing Since the Beginning) From cave dwellers to our present writers, our stories have always entertained. What has changed in the way we write that has kept our audience coming back *Lawrence Connolly, Herb Kauderer, Fruma Klass, Thomas Seay*

[Willow-LL] Reading *Bud Sparkhawk*

[Redwood-LL] Concert: Pete Grubbs

[Walnut-LL] Art Demo: Polymer Clay Sculpting Make a small item using polymer clay. No Materials fee. *Barbara Carlson*

[Maple-LL] Video: *The Girl Who Lept Through Time* (2006) Time travel, and the sometimes bitter consequences of time travel.

[224/225] Kaffeeklatsch (Sign up at Registration) *William Keith, James Morrow*

3:00pm

[Salon A-ML] Guest of Honor Talk Taunting the Tauntable since 1998 "I face a computer and bang on the keyboard until something intelligible comes out. Then I sell it." Our guest goes into great detail about the bangin' good experiences he's lived through. Warning! May contain Mimes, Balloons and Ponies! *John Scalzi*

4:00pm

[224/225] Kaffeeklatsch/Literary Beer (Sign up at Registration)

John Scalzi, Michelle Sagara West

[Salon A-ML] World-building Stories vs. Game Modules What are the requirements? How do the writing styles differ—if they really do? *SC Butler, Walter Hunt, William Keith, Mike Velichansky*

[Foyer-ML] Autographing *James Morrow*

[Sycamore-ML] Alpha 1 Meeting *Diane Turnshek, Mary Turzillo*

[Oak-LL] Fava Beans & a Nice Chianti Horror Video vs. Lit. There are things we look for and things we *hope* for in a scary movie. Are they really that different? What needs to be done to translate a good scary story from page to screen? Can a film truly capture the exquisite flavor of the written word? *Lawrence Connolly, Ricky Dick, Chris Pisano, John A Taylor*

[Willow-LL] Cyberwar Colossus the Forbin Project, HAL 9000, and Others. Computers gone wild, right? What about when some one *tells* them to act up? We rely on computers to store & manage information—how do we know we aren't being led and manipulated by unscrupulous hackers and electronic invaders? Can war be fought so that remote control and disinformation can tip the scales? *Ken Chiacchia, Alan Katerinsky, Bud Sparhawk, A. Andrew Swann*

[Redwood-LL] Concert: Toyboat

[Walnut-LL] Art Demo: Amber Polishing & Carving *Nancy Janda*

[Maple-LL] Video: *Cowboy Bebop: The Movie* (2001) *Cowboy Bebop* is one of the best TV series ever made. The first episode had one of the main characters talking about John Coultrain coming to him in a dream; told me that this was going to be different.

5:00pm

[224/225] Kaffeeklatsch/Literary Beer (Sign up at Registration)

[Salon A-ML] Comics and Graphic Novels With so many comics pervading the web space, what does the future of comics look like? Will print comics become more in demand? *David Barr Kirtley, Eric Davin, Brian Koscienski*

[Foyer-ML] Autographing *Lawrence Connolly*

[Sycamore-ML] **Alpha 2 Meeting** *John Scalzi, Diane Turnshek*

[Oak-LL] **Teaching SF** Is there a difference between teaching SF and the other forms of literature? Are the stories of Thomas Hardy that much different from those of Gordon Dickson. Is it harder to communicate the subtle politics of *Dune* than *A Tale of Two Cities*? *John DeChancie, Timons Esaias, Charles Oberndorf, William Tenn*

[Willow-LL] **Reading** *James Morrow*

[Redwood-LL] **Concert: Catherine Asaro and Donald Wolcott**

5:30pm

[Willow-LL] **Reading** *Michelle Sagara West*

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6:00pm

Dealers Room/PARSEC Sales/Art Show Close [224/225] Alpha Dinner [Redwood-LL] **Storytelling with Words and Music** The arts of telling stories in spoken word or in song are millenia old. How does one tell stories differently in these formats? *Catherine Asaro, Juanita Coulson, Alan Irvine, Bill Mayhew, Donald Wolcott,*

[Maple-LL] **Video: *The Quiet Arrangement*** (2009) A thriller filmed in Pittsburgh with our own Kevin Hayes.

7:00pm

[Oak-LL] **Traditional Publishing vs. Self Publishing** The good, the bad and the ugly...and if I post my poem/story/memoirs on the Internet, is that really self publishing? *Jean Goldstrom, Brian Koscienski, Gary Markette, Chris Pisano*

[Willow-LL] **Reading** *S. Andrew Swann*

8:00pm

[Salon A-ML] **The Parallax Second Players Present *The Girl in the Firefly*** A musical-travesty mashup of Doctor Who's "The Girl in the Fireplace" and Firefly, set to music from Annie Get Your Gun

[Oak-LL] **Newer, Edgier, Grander, and Already Deceased - *Battlestar Galactica*** Not your mother's BSG, and in a good way! *Catherine Asaro, Erik Leif Davin, Jim Mann*

[Maple-LL] **Video: *Iron Man*** (2008) I know you're all going to be upstairs watching the play, but I'm going to be watching explosions.

9:00pm

[Oak-LL] **Trivia for Chocolate** Guess right & win candy! *Jim Mann*

9:30pm

[Salon A-ML] **Filk Guest Concert: More Difficulties**

10:00pm

[Oak-LL] **Manage a Deux and Menage a Don'ts** When Does Erotica Become Just Another Piece of Porn? "Rated R" Because of the explicit language, no one under the age of 18 will be permitted to attend this panel without a legal guardian in attendance. *Brea Ludwigson, Bud Sparhawk, Diane Turnshek, Karen Yun-Lutz*

10:30pm

[Maple-LL] **Video: *They Live***

11:00pm

[Redwood-LL] **Open Filk**

Sunday, July 26, 2009

9:00am

[Sycamore-ML] **Writing Exercises** Bring paper & pen *Ade Conway*

10:00am

[Salon A-ML] SF/F and H: Are Our Trends Affected by Political and Economic Trends? Was Cyberpunk a reaction to fear of the growing reliance on computers? When politics is in an uproar, what can this mean to the stories that sell? What dreams may come? *SC Butler, Walter Hunt, S.*

Andrew Swann

[Foyer-ML] Autographing *David Barr Kirtley*

[Oak-LL] Einstein and Heinlein; Time Travel in Fact and Fiction

H.G. Wells invented the time machine in science fiction, but can time travel really happen? This multi-media presentation covers a brief history of time (travel), along with the fourth dimension, wormholes, space warps, and science fiction. *Geoffrey Landis*

[Willow-LL] Finnegan's Wake, or Winnegan's Fake Remembering Philip José Farmer, in all his glorious weird world building. Bring your favorite bits of Farmer writing and any personal memories. There may be pictures. *Mary Turzillo*

[Maple-LL] Video: Sinbad the Sailor (1947) Starring Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Maureen O'Hara and Anthony Quinn.

11:00am

[224/225] Kaffeeklatsch (Sign up at Registration) *Catherine Asaro, Donald Wolcott*

[Salon A-ML] Iconic Tropes of SF, Fantasy and Horror They stand as cornerstones; but try not trip over them. We'll identify these giants that genre writers dealwith, cite their initial incarnations and the best and worst attempts to build on these cornerstones. *SC Butler, Susan Dexter, Alan Katerinsky, S. Andrew Swann*

S. Andrew Swann

[Foyer-ML] Autographing *William Keith*

[Oak-LL] Future of Publishing Big houses, small houses, self-publish and the Internet. Where does it all lead? What will survive?

John DeChancie, Jean Goldstrom, Gary Markette, Mary Turzillo **[Willow-LL] Reading William Tenn** **[Redwood-LL] Instrumental Filk** Is it possible to filk with an

instrument alone, or are words required? What about musical parodies, like Allan Sherman or PDQ Bach? What can an instrument contribute to the performance of a filk song?? Bring your own instrument. *Blind Lemming Chiffon*

11:30am

[Willow-LL] Reading Peculiar Pieces You won't believe some sentences gleaned from vanity press submissions! *Fruma Klass*

12:00 noon

[Salon A-ML] A Jump Through the Darkness: New Looks at Space Travel Warps, transdimensional or just really, super fast?

Catherine Asaro, Geoff Landis, Bud Sparhawk

[Foyer-ML] [Sycamore-ML] Autographing *Mary Turzillo* **[Oak-LL] Icelandic Eddas and Sagas** A mostly-media

presentation of swordfights, monsters, blood, dismemberment and poetry—how could you want anything else? Timons the Skald chants the history. *Timons Esaias*

[Willow-LL] Reading Susan Dexter **[Redwood-LL] Concert: Heather Dale and Ben Deschamps** **[Maple-LL] Video: Godzilla The Final Wars**

(2004) It was introduced

by Keiko McDonald with the suggestion to "Leave your sophistication at the door." It's a remake of *Destroy All Monsters*.

12:30pm

[Willow-LL] Reading John Scalzi

1:00pm

[Salon A-ML] Being a Full Time Writer – Possibility or Pipe Dream? Do full-time writers they have tips or advice? Are there any ways to ensure sales and command royal sums? *Walter Hunt, William Keith, John Scalzi*

[Foyer-ML] Autographing *Catherine Asaro*

[Oak-LL] The Meteorology of Scent This presentation examines the meteorology of small-scale wind patterns, how fine particulates and gasses move on scales of less than a kilometer. *Ken Chiacchia*

[Redwood-LL] Concert: Maugorn the Stray

1:30pm

[Willow-LL] Art Auction

2:00pm

[Salon A-ML] Vogon Poetry: The Really Bad Stuff In *Hitchhikers Guide*, the Vogon were known for writing the third worst poetry in the Universe. Can we do as well? Audience participation encouraged. *Ann Cecil, Timons Esaias, Brea Ludwigson, Mary Turzillo*

[Oak-LL] That Ain't the Way I Remember it; Secret Society, Secret History With the popularity of *The DaVinci Code* is the way we see the world really accurate? Do the Knights Templar really hold secrets? From Free Masons to Illuminati, what is really going on? *Walter Hunt, Alan Katerinsky, John Alfred Taylor*

[Willow-LL] Reading: Charles Oberndorf

[Redwood-LL] Concert: Tom Smith

[Maple-LL] Video: Zatoichi (2003) A remake of the classic blind swordsman series by "Beat" Takeshi with himself in the title role.

2:30pm

[Willow-LL] Reading: Charles Oberndorf

[Redwood-LL] Dead Dog Filk

3:00pm

[Salon A-ML] Are We Really Alone; The Fermi Paradox If they are really out there, why haven't we seen them here? And if we have seen them, why didn't we recognize them? *David Barr Kirtley, Jim Morrow, Diane Turnshek, Michael Velichansky*

[Oak-LL] Dead Dog Panel: Random Topics/Random Panelists A round robin of subjects and people to express opinions...Short subjects and rotating participants will provide thought-provoking insights. If you're a panelist who didn't get a chance to talk about something you really wanted to, this is your last chance!

[Willow-LL] Reading: John Alfred Taylor

Memberships are available for the 2010 Confluence (with GoH Wen Spencer and Featured Filker Peter Beagle), to be held at the Doubletee in Moon Township. Stop by the Registration table on Saturday afternoon or Sunday to purchase your 2010 membership.

Check our Web site for information on PARSEC and Confluence: <http://www.parsec-sff.org>.

Confluence 2009 Program Grids Friday, July 24 Schedule

Sunday, July 26 Schedule

For the Saturday schedule grid, see page 8

Confluence 2009 Program Grids Saturday, July 25 Schedule

For the Friday and Sunday schedule grids, see page 7