

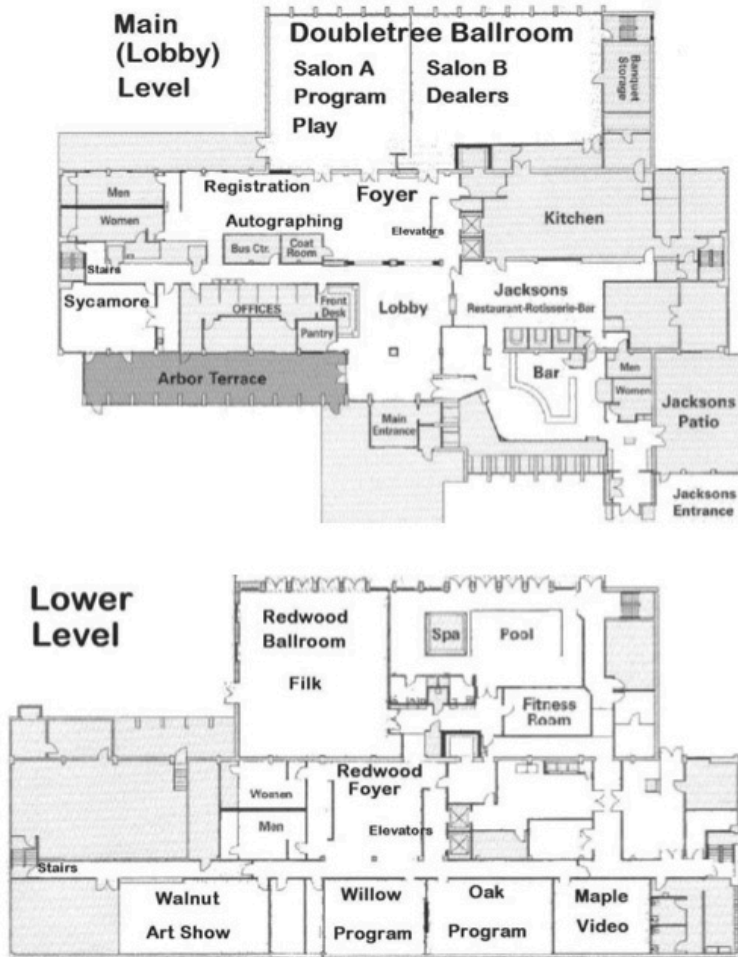
# Confluence, 24<sup>th</sup> Pittsburgh SF Convention Schedule

Friday, July 27-Sunday, July 29, 2012

Guest of Honor/Featured Filk: Seanan McGuire

Special Filk Guest: Martha Sayre

## Doubletree, Pittsburgh Airport, Hotel Map



Kaffee Klatches require advanced sign-up at Registration  
Autographing & PARSEC Sales are in the Main Level Foyer.

### Room Locations:

LL- Lower Level ML - Main (Lobby) Level

Con Suite - 625 Junior Suite - 225

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

## Friday, July 27, 2012

4:00pm

**[Oak-LL] The Votes Aren't In** Can real living, breathing politics--& the ideologies that go along with it--have a place in SF/F/H without become pedantic? What examples of politics in these genres exist and how can a writer insert his/her politics without turning off a portion of the audience? *Mike McPail, Barton Paul Levenson, Tim Liebe*  
**[Maple-LL] Video: On the Beach** (1959)

5:00pm

### **[Salon B-ML] Dealers Room Opens**

**[Oak-LL] Are You a Member Here?** The question is whether we, as a group of readers (bunch of geeks, tribe of SF/F/H fans) and writers have gotten too exclusive--with tropes, words and shorthand universes--and if there is new stuff being written that would be accessible to Joe and Jill Common-Person. Would they have as much fun reading *A Game of Thrones* or *We Can Remember if for You Wholesale* as watching it? *Steve Ramey, Lawrence Connolly, John Joseph Adams, Sarah Goslee*

**[Willow-LL] The Tale of Then and Now** Follow the roots of the World-Tree of Arthurian Legend and Celtic Myth--even Babylonian origins to modern fantasy and its branches into Urban, dark, medieval and who-knows-what other treatments of the genre for the fantastical stories being told today. *Susan Dexter, Cathy Seckman, Jason Jack Miller, Larry Ivkovich*

5:30pm

**[Redwood-LL] Filk Mad Lib** Help replace half the lyrics of a filk song with random words and then listen to Randy try to sing it. How many times will Randy be unable to contain his chortling? How many times will Pete Grubbs suggest "Islets of Langerhans"? *Randy Hoffman*

6:00pm

**[Walnut-LL] Art Show Opens**

**[Oak-LL] Reading *Dark Faith 2*** Lucy Snyder, Tim Waggoner

**[Willow-LL] We Don't Cotton to Strangers 'Round Here** The concept of the outsider--alien, stranger, roving warlock--is a powerful but oft-used trope in Science Fiction, Horror, and Fantasy. What draws writers (and readers) to this concept and how do writers make it fresh? A discussion on past examples--bring your copies of Camus' *The Stranger* for bonus points!--and where it stands in the 21st century. *Charles Oberndorf, Susan Urbanek Linville, Ken Chiacchia, Jason Jack Miller*

**[Redwood-LL] Pegasus Awards** We'll peruse the results of the Brainstorming Poll for possible song, songwriter, and performer nominees for the film community's 2012 Pegasus Awards. The nominations are held open until the end of the month just for Confluence attendees, so come get ideas for filling out your ballot! *Randy Hoffman*

6:15pm

**[Maple-LL] Video: *The Day the Earth Caught Fire (1961)***

7:00pm

**[Foyer-ML] Autographing** *Tim Waggoner, Kenneth Cain*

**[Oak-LL] Ten Top Tropes to Be Aware of (and How to Use Them)**

Yes, there are probably more than ten, but starting with Verne & Welles, there are specific human actions that arise when thrown into problems of space travel, time travel, apocalypse, and world-changing technological discoveries. What are the really good ones? Are any new ones on the shelves today? *Heidi Ruby Miller, Jonathan Maberry, Herb Kauderer, Gary Braunbeck*

**[Willow-LL] Iron-Writer Collaboration** The audience provides words (nouns adjectives, verbs, you know, those things) the panelists cobble together a title from them and a story plot to fit it. How many viable stories can you come up with in 55 minutes? *Christopher J. Pisano, KT Pinto, Diane Ackley-McPhail, Lawrence Connolly*

**[Redwood-LL] Concert: Mark Bernstein**

8:00pm

**[Salon B-ML] Dealers Room and [Walnut] Art Show Close**

**[Oak-LL] Helpful Hints You'll Never Hear from Heloise** The creative process--it differs from person to person, but there have to be some general things that everyone uses. How does the process

start, how can the germ of an idea be fleshed out and built into something fantastic? What kind of "Oh, that's clever, I wouldn't have thought of that..." tips can be used to make the stories better? *Rand Bellavia, Seanan McGuire, Michelle Sagara, Bud Sparhawk*

**[Willow-LL] Don't Make Me Sick** Biologic and biomedical science fiction is still a lot of unused territory Why do we insist that it has to be space? And when we have the technology to make ourselves, or at least our characters better than before, why don't we? *Ken Chiacchia, Susan Urbanek Linville, Kathleen Sloan, Sarah Goslee*

**[Redwood-LL] Concert: Jonah Knight**

**[Maple-LL] Video: *Prophecies of Nostradamus (1974)***

**[225] Beer Tasting of the 13 Colonies** *Jim Mann, JJ Walton*

9:00pm

**[Oak-LL] Alpha Debrief** *Diane Turnshek, Cassie Krahe, David Barr-Kirtley, Tamora Pierce*

**[Willow-LL] Artistic Fundraising** There are all sorts of tools available on the internet to use to raise funds for your personal creative projects. Which ones are good for what you want to do and how do you sell everyone on the idea? (I have a hat and I know how to use it; don't make me pass this thing) *Steve Ramey, Devo Spice, Heidi Ruby Miller, Insane Ian*

**[Redwood-LL] Concert: Carolyn Brown**

10:00pm

**[Oak-LL] Reading: *Triangulation***

**[Willow-LL] *Snark and the City*** A discussion and examination of urban fantasy and it's place in "standard" fantasy (we'll leave **that** definition to the panelists). Comparison of medieval fantasy vs urban fantasy. How much does the idea of urban fantasy rely on the attitude and ennui of the main characters and readers? *Lucy Snyder, KT Pinto, Jon Sprunk, Denise Verrico*

**[Redwood-LL] Concert: Devo Spice**

**[625] Kaffee Klatsch: Jonathan Maberry, John Joseph Adams**

10:30pm

**[Oak-LL] Reading: Jason Jack Miller**

11:00pm

**[Redwood-LL] Open Filking**

## Saturday, July 28, 2012

9:00am

**[225] Writing Exercises** Bring your own laptop/paper *Ade Conway*  
**[Sycamore-ML] Writers Workshop** (Open only to people who signed up before the con) *Paul Anderson, Tim Waggoner*

10:00am

**[Salon B-ML] Dealers Room and [Walnut-LL] Art Show Open**  
**[Salon A-ML] Identity Theft** What to do when your consciousness is moved into a body where it doesn't belong? Will the real original please stand up? Philip K. Dick would love it. And why does everyone think my clone would know what I know? *Bud Sparhawk, Alan Katerinsky, Steve Ramey, Barton Paul Levenson*  
**[Foyer-ML] Autographing:** *John Joseph Adams, James Daniel Ross*  
**[Oak-LL] Presentation: PowerPoint Vampire** *Denise Verrico*  
**[Willow-LL] When Does It Stop Being a Genre?** When does it stop being genre fiction and become literature (or best seller)? Michael Crichton, Stephen King, J.K. Rowling—should we still like them if the onus is removed? SF/F/H are being taught as part of literature courses in schools. Can we still consider the stories being taught as real genre fiction now that it has reached "literature" status? John Alfred Taylor, Charles Oberndorf, Herb Kauderer, Eric Beebe  
**[Maple-LL] Video:** *Titan A. E.* (2000)  
**[225] Tea with Tammy** *Tamora Pierce* (Sign up at Registration)

11:00am

**[Salon A-ML] I Read Your Story and...the Problems/Strengths as I See Them** What are the strengths and weaknesses of critique groups and beta readers? How do you determine what are good groups and readers? Our panelists discuss the trial-and-error they've gone through in finding their first-readers. *Michelle Sagara, David Barr Kirtley, Heidi Ruby Miller, Jon Sprunk*  
**[Foyer-ML] Autographing** *Paul Melko, Garry Braunbeck, Lucy Snyder*  
**[Oak-LL] Aliens Near & Far Presentation** Aliens have long been the subject of SF stories & films, but will we even get the chance to meet any? Find out about few aliens living on Earth and the possibility of finding aliens in our solar system and beyond. *Susan Urbanek Linville*  
**[Willow-LL] Changing Landscapes** Where do people get their reading material? Brick-and-mortar bookstores have been transitioning to the Web and, from there, to Nooks and Kindles and tablets. How

have the changes in technology, the small presses, and the self-publishers changed the consumer landscape and where do readers go from here? How has marketing changed between the Big 6 publishers and the independents and where does that leave the writer? *Larry Ivkovich, Brian Koscienski, Mike McPhail, Tamora Pierce*  
**[Redwood-LL] Performance Theory** Every performance involves an intricate interplay between audience and performer(s), but most are unaware of the dynamics involved. Learn some basic concepts of performance preparation and audience psychology to build your self-awareness and confidence. *Pete Grubbs*

11:30am

**[Maple-LL] Video: *When Worlds Collide* (1951)**

12:00pm - Noon

**[Walnut-LL] Art Show Closes**  
**[Salon A-ML] Let's Get Series—Ish** What does it take to write a series—plans, pitfalls, and problems to be faced. And what can one do to keep it consistent from first novel to last word? *Lucy Snyder, Jon Sprunk, KT Pinto, Seanan McGuire*  
**[Oak-LL] Exo-Solar Planets, Recent Scientific developments and What Stories will We Tell?** How is space exploration (or lack thereof) as well as new technology and discoveries changing the face of contemporary SF? *Susan Urbanek Linville, Ken Chiacchia, Paul Melko, Alan Katerinsky*  
**[Willow-LL] Psychology of Horror** What scares horror writers (besides clowns and ducks)? and how do they use it to make their stories just a little more unsettling? *Gary Braunbeck, Jonathan Maberry, Lawrence Connolly, C. Bryan Brown*  
**[Redwood-LL] Concert: Rob Wynne**  
**[625] Kaffee Klatsch** *Larry Ivkovich, Jason Jack Miller, Sarah Goslee*

12:30pm

**[Sycamore-ML] Art Demo: Amber** (until 1:45) *Nancy Janda*

1:00pm

**[Salon A-ML] Writing Round Table** (lasts until 3pm) Probably the scariest panel of all. Writers talk about what they do. The bare bones of what it takes to put the words on the page, how they got started, what inspires them, why they keep doing it & why they all appreciate those of us who read it. Very definitely free form conversa-

tion. *Paul Anderson, Jason Jack Miller, Michelle Sagara, John Alfred Taylor, Eric Leif Davin, Paul Melko, Bud Sparhawk, Gary Braunbeck*

**[Foyer-ML] Autographing** *Tamora Pierce*

**[Oak-LL] Yes They Bite** So many people have used the scary blood-suckers to the point that they now sparkle and worry about what other people think of them. They aren't the undead, they are the life-impaired. What is the fascination and now that Sookie Stackhouse and the Cullin Clan have wound up their stories, what is on the admittedly dark horizon for vampires now? *Denise Verrico, KT Pinto, Christopher Pisano, Barton Paul Levenson*

**[Willow-LL] Half Past the Apocalypse** Dystopias: are they all worked out? What do the doomsday scenarios tell us about our ideas of entertainment? Is it time to swing the pendulum in a different direction? or is it too much fun to talk about how dreadful things are gonna get? *Tim Waggoner, Cathy Seckman, Sarah Goslee, Kenneth Cain*

**[Redwood-LL] Concert: Insane Ian**

**[Maple-LL] Video: *The Satan Bug* (1965)**

**[625] Kaffee Klatsch** *Danielle Ackley-McPhail, Mike McPhail*

**2:00pm**

**[Salon A-ML] Writing Round Table** (Continues from 1pm)

**[Foyer-ML] Autographing:** *KT Pinto, Jon Sprunk, Heidi Ruby Miller*

**[Oak-LL] Keeping within the Constraints** Not all of this is as free form as it looks. The songs have to follow certain structural guidelines—at least to be good and singable; the stories have to include thematic elements to qualify for anthologies. Is there a best way to do this and still produce exceptional work? And how can we recognize the times to throw the rule book out the window? *Cat Faber, Seanan McGuire, James Daniel Ross, Elektra Hammond*

**[Willow-LL] SF/F/H in TV and Movies** It holds a special place in our hearts & even inserts the fingers of geek culture into the hearts & minds of mundane culture, but do those Hollywood folks really know what they're doing? Can they do justice to a real SF story? *Chris Pisano, Tim Waggoner, Jeff Young, Susan Dexter*

**[Redwood-LL] Concert: Pete Grubbs**

**[625] Kaffee Klatsch** *Herb Kauderer, Alan Katerinsky*

**2:15pm**

**[Sycamore-ML] Art Demo: Free-form Crochet** (until 3:30) *Kathy Evans*

**3:00pm**

**[Salon A-ML] Guest of Honor Talk: Seanan McGuire**

**[Maple-LL] Video: *Day of the Triffids* (1962)**

**4:00pm**

**[Salon A-ML] The Dark Descent—25 Years Later** A discussion of horror with the editor of this landmark anthology and three working writers of the field. How has horror changed? What makes the horror succeed and fail? Has horror changed significantly since *The Dark Descent* was first published 25 years ago? *David Hartwell, Paul Anderson, Tim Waggoner, Jonathan Maberry*

**[Foyer-ML] Autographing** *Seanan McGuire*

**[Sycamore-ML] Reading: *The Shattered Visage Lies and Other Selections*** *Brian Koscienski, Christopher J. Pisano*

**[Oak-LL] Editors—What do They Really Want** Good question—here are a few, what do they have to say? *John Joseph Adams, Jeff Young, Eric Beebe, Danielle Ackley-McPhail, Sarah Goslee*

**[Willow-LL] History of the Tale** Today's stories—sometimes the roots go a lot deeper than you know. Where do they come from and where can we find others? *John Alfred Taylor, Eric Leif Davin, Charles Oberndorf, Susan Dexter*

**[Redwood-LL] Special Filk Guest Concert: Martha Sayre**

**[625] Kaffee Klatsch** *Denise Verrico, James Daniel Ross*

**4:30pm**

**[Maple-LL] Video: *Miracle Mile* (1988)**

**5:00pm**

**[Foyer-ML] Autographing:** *Michelle Sagara, Lawrence Connolly*

**[Sycamore-ML] Reading: *Burly Men of Horror*** *Kenneth Cain, C. Bryan Brown*

**[Oak-LL] When the Cutting Edge Isn't Sharp Enough** *Higgs Boson*. What will the writers extrapolate from what's going on now and what technologies or dynamic social interaction will need to be looked at to find the "Next Big Thing." *David Hartwell, Paul Melko, Eric Beebe, Charles Oberndorf*

**[Willow-LL] Alpha Q&A with GoH** *Seanan McGuire*

**[Redwood-LL] Concert: Cat Faber**

**[625] Kaffee Klatsch** *Brian Koscienski, Christopher J. Pisano, Jeff Young*

**6:00pm**

**[Salon B-ML] Dealers Room and [Walnut-LL] Art Show Close**  
**[Oak-LL] Can't We Just Get Along?** Stories, books, songs. With so many creative things to do, it's only natural that sometimes we work together to create something beyond the scope and abilities of just one person. What are the good things and bad things about collaboration? Can compromise actually lead to a better result? Lyrics and music, Editors and writers, the perils and perks of working together. Whether it be authors with authors, authors with songwriters, songwriters with songwriters, good results will always speak for themselves. *Jonah Knight, Rand Bellavia, John Joseph Adams, Christopher J. Pisano*  
**[Maple-LL] Video: *Dr. Strangelove* (1964)**

**7:00pm**

**[Foyer-ML] Autographing:** *Jonathan Maberry, Jeff Young, Jason Jack Miller*  
**[Sycamore-ML] Reading:** *Cathy Seckman*  
**[Oak-LL] Bastard, Bitches and Bad Guys** What makes a villain believable, horrible...and readable? What keeps them realistic? Even Snidely Whiplash had a mother. As readers, what do we think makes a good villain? As writers how difficult is it to create a memorable one? And do great villains engender great heroes? or vice versa? *Paul Anderson, David Hartwell, Brian Koscienski, Eric Leif Davin*  
**[Willow-LL] A Medicine for the Military** Whether portrayed as villains or heroes, it helps to know more than just ranks. what are the tricks to doing realistic and good military stories? *Mike McPhail, James D Ross, Tim Liebe, Bud Sparhawk*  
**[625] Kaffee/Beer Klatsch:** *Gary Braunbeck, Lucy Snyder*

**7:30pm**

**[Sycamore-ML] Reading:** *Jon Sprunk*

**8:00pm**

**[Salon A-ML] Musical Travesty: SupermAnnie** What if a young orphan wishing for a family were taken under the wing of someone rich and bald? A Parallax Second Players Production  
**[Oak-LL] A History of the Pulp and How We got Here from There** Early in the 20th Century, magazines like *Argosy* gave rise to writers like Edgar Rice Burroughs, ultimately leading to Hugo Gerns-

back's brilliant idea for a magazine dedicated to stories of scientific-tion. Where we came from, where we are now—where are we going? *Tim Liebe, Eric Leif Davin, John Alfred Taylor, Kenneth Cain*  
**[Maple-LL] Video: *Last Night* (1998)**

**9:00pm**

**[Sycamore-ML] Reading: *Living Dead 2*** *John Joseph Adams, Gary Braunbeck, Jonathan Maberry, David Barr Kirtley*  
**[Oak-LL] Reading:** *John Alfred Taylor*  
**[Willow-LL] Reading: *Defending the Future*** *Danielle Ackley-McPhail James Daniel Ross, Bud Sparhawk, Jeff Young*  
**[625] Kaffee/Beer Klatsch:** *John Sprunk, Ken Chiacchia*

**9:30pm**

**[Salon A-ML] Filk Guest Concert: Seanan McGuire (and friends)**  
**[Oak-LL] Reading:** *Denise Verrico*  
**[Maple-LL] Video: *2012* (2009)**

**10:00pm**

**[Oak-LL] Sins Are Refreshed: Frank Discussions, Erotic Readings and Naughty Jokes** An examination of erotica in the genres. *KT Pinto, Elektra Hammond, Kevin M. Hayes*  
**[Willow-LL] Reading: *Defending the Future* (continued)**

**11:00pm**

**[Salon A-ML] Open Filk**

**Sunday, July 29, 2012**

**9:00am**

**[Sycamore-ML] Writing Exercises** Bring your own laptop *Ade Conway*

**10:00am**

**[Salon B-ML] Dealers Room and [Walnut] Art Show Open**  
**[Foyer-ML] Autographing:** *Denise Verrico, Danielle Ackerley-McPhail*  
**[Salon A-ML] They're Coming to Get You, Barbara, Again and Again and Again** Zombies have dominated the mainstream horror landscape for over a decade. Some people are sick to death (pun not intended) of them, while others look to the living dead as a necessary

balance to twinkly, sparkly, moraltastic vamps. Why do zombies work and why hasn't even a good shot to the head put this trope down?

*Kenneth Cain, C. Bryan Brown, Jonathan Maberry, Sarah Goslee*

**[Sycamore-ML] Reading:** *David Barr Kirtley*

**[Oak-LL] Presentation: Where in the World Is \_\_\_\_\_?** Despite the

era of GPS-enabled mobile telephones, people still go missing & need to be found the old fashioned way: by going out and looking for them. But where do you look, and how do you do it—and if you don't find them, when do you stop? This presentation will review how modern search managers do it—and will review the latest results of local experiments that are helping to do it better. *Ken Chiacchia*

**[Willow-LL] Reading:** *Tamora Pierce*

**[Maple-LL] Video:** *The Quiet Earth (1985)*

**[625] Kaffeeklatsch:** *Michelle Sagara, Bud Sparhawk* (Sign up)

**10:30am**

**[Redwood-LL] Workshop: Recording and Mixing** Many people are intimidated by the thought of recording & mixing their own performances themselves. Almost anyone can make recordings that sound good, even on a shoestring budget. *Cat Faber*

**11:00am**

**[Salon A-ML] I Wasn't Always This Awesome** Stories about reviews and other less than complimentary comments. How do creators handle the less-than-laudatory statements of their work? *Tamora Pierce, Michelle Sagara, Seanan McGuire, Jonathan Maberry*

**[Foyer-ML] Autographing:** *Brian Koscienski, Christopher J. Pisano*

**[Sycamore-ML] Reading:** *Barton Paul Levenson*

**[Oak-LL] We're Talking to You** Podcasting—informative & stimulating. Radio for internet age. What does it take? What can it do for the SF/F/H culture as a means of communication? *David Barr Kirtley, Heidi Ruby Miller, Herb Kauderer, Alan Katerinsky*

**[Willow-LL] Reading:** *Susan Dexter*

**[Redwood-LL] Workshop: Recording/Mixing (continued)**

**[625] Kaffe Klatsch:** *John Alfred Taylor, Eric Beebe*

**11:30am**

**[Maple-LL] Video:** *The Day the World Ended (1955)*

**12:00 - noon**

**[Walnut-LL] Art Show Closes**

**[Salon A-ML] Vogon Poetry** This is the bad penny of panels. What appalling meter & rhyme will arise from the panelists & the public this year to entertain us? If for no other reason than "I'm glad I didn't write that." Herb Kauderer, Lucy Snyder, Brian Koscienski, Denise Verrico, Alan Katerinsky

**[Foyer-ML] Autographing:** *Barton Paul Levenson, Larry Ivkovich*

**[Sycamore-ML] Reading:** *Torn Realities* *Paul Anderson, Kenneth Cain, Jamie Lackey, Katy Board*

**[Oak-LL] Thank Heaven for Little Subs** The genres are science fiction, fantasy and horror, but the story has elves in a high rise building using lasers to fight vampires from the past...and an elf and a vampire are in love. the mainstream of genre fiction and an examination of the facets: where does the story fit? *Danielle Ackley-McPhail, Larry Ivkovich, Elektra Hammond, Jeff Young*

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

**[Redwood-LL] Concert:** *Kathleen Sloan*

**1:00pm**

**[Salon A-ML] Geek Culture Versus Geek Generation** When SF/F/H writers were stretching their literary muscles at the dawn of the 20th cent., the fandom that arose was an almost secret society. There were catch phrases, jokes and references that developed and were bandied about in a close-knit esoteric group. Today, everyone wants the precious, looks for the cuddly side of Cthulhu and anticipates boredom on the trips to Mars. What happens when everybody is a geek? *Paul Melko, David Barr Kirtley, Christopher Pisano, Elektra Hammond*

**[Foyer-ML] Autographing**

**[Willow-LL] Art Auction**

**[Redwood-LL] Concert:** *The Blibbering Humdingers*

**[Maple-LL] Video:** *Colossus: The Forbin Project (1970)*

**2:00pm**

**[Redwood-LL] Concert:** *Gary Ehrlich*

**2:30pm**

**[Maple-LL] Video:** *Wall-E (2008)*

**3:00pm**

**[Salon B-ML] Dealers Room Closes**

**[Redwood-LL] Dead Dog Filk**