

Chessiecon 2022



Souvenir Program Book

Chessiecon 2022

November 25 – 27, 2022

Delta Hotels Hunt Valley
245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031

Sponsored by the Thanksgiving Science Fiction Society, Inc.

Guests of Honor:

Danielle Ackley-McPhail

Blibbering Humdingers

www.chessiecon.org

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Staff.....	4
A Note from the Con Chair.....	5
Guest of Honor: Danielle Ackley-McPhail.....	6
Guest of Honor: Blibbering Humdingers.....	7
Balticon Advertisement.....	8
Program Schedule.....	9
Friday.....	9
Saturday.....	11
Sunday.....	14
Function Space.....	16
Hours of Operation.....	16
Presenters.....	17
Vendors.....	20
Chessiecon Turkey Award Contest.....	21
Rules.....	21
2022 Winning Entries.....	21
2021 Winning Entries.....	22
Shore Leave Advertisement.....	24
Chessiecon Code of Conduct.....	25
Badges.....	25
Children.....	25
Personal Interaction.....	26
Public Parties.....	26
Hotel Interactions.....	26
Smoking.....	27
Service Animals.....	27
Weapons.....	27
Privacy, Photography, and Electronic Recording.....	27
Sales of Merchandise.....	28
COVID-19 Safety Policy.....	28

Art Credits:

Nancy Janda: cover

Megan Willis: 4, 20, 21

Staff

Chair

Aleksandr Poryshkin

Programming Head

Aleksandr Poryshkin

Music

Crystal Paul

Mythic

John Weller

A/V Provider and Videographer

Dr Gandalf

Program Grid

Marilyn Mix

Turkey Awards

Aleksandr Poryshkin

Tabletop Gaming

Steve Brinich

Mike "Pyris" Brown

Computer Museum Tour

Fred Blonder

Dealers Room

Yakira Heistand

Fan Tables

Marilyn Mix

Con Suite

Thomas Atkinson



Time Travelers Social

Aleksandr Poryshkin

Crystal Paul

Maugorn

Con Ops

Michael Houghton (Herveus)

Registration

Dave Montuori

Volunteers

Yakira Heistand

Hotel

Aleksandr Poryshkin

Advertising, Social Media, Website

Marilyn Mix

Treasurer

Aleksandr Poryshkin

Program Book

Michael Houghton

Marilyn Mix

Thank you to all the volunteers, especially those who saw a need and stepped in at the last minute.

Thanks to the Baltimore Science Fiction Society and the Washington Science Fiction Association for graciously allowing us to borrow equipment.

A Note from the Con Chair

What to say? I had hoped to be writing this well before the convention, with a cheery “have a good convention” message. Like everything else for the past several years, it was not to be. So, a retrospective, and let’s focus on the positives.

The Blibbering Humdingers were a wonderful bunch to experience first-hand. Great music, high energy, wonderful sound. I had honestly never actually heard of them, so they were a pleasant surprise when they were suggested as our Music Guest of Honor for 2022. Their music is eclectic, strange, wonderful, and outright absurd at times. They really are the perfect fit for Chessiecon, and we were very lucky they accepted our offer. And having them try so hard not to vomit through their eyes as they read out the Turkey Award winners this year (they succeeded!) was another high point.

Danielle Ackley-McPhail is frequently high-strung, high energy, she seems to always manage to pull things together when they need to be and make the parts fit when they need to. But she also seems to exude competency and manages to bring out the best from the writers in her publishing house. Danielle did a superb job with her presentations: There’s so much experience that she has to pass on: not only writing itself, but editing, publishing, managing the process. If you ever get another chance to attend her presentations, grab it. There’s much to be learned listening to her.

Many of our other guests also stepped up to make the convention a great experience: Maugorn with his numerous music bits, the ubiquitous Michelle Sonnier, and Ef Deal, Dr. Thomas Holtz was his usual awesome self. D. H. Aire’s incredulity when we were judging the Turkey Awards also stood out.

Lastly, though, I’d like to thank the staffers who made the convention possible at all. There was so much job to fill, and frankly, too few people to do it with: seeing them step up and doing a lot of the behind the scenes work was what brought the convention together.

– Aleksandr Poryshkin

Guest of Honor: Danielle Ackley-McPhail



Award-winning author, editor, and publisher Danielle Ackley-McPhail has worked both sides of the publishing industry for longer than she cares to admit. In 2014 she joined forces with husband Mike McPhail and friend Greg Schauer to form her own publishing house, eSpec Books (www.especbooks.com).

Her published works include seven novels: *Yesterday's Dreams*, *Tomorrow's Memories*, *Today's Promise*, *The Halfling's Court*, *The Redcaps' Queen*, *Daire's Devils*, and *Baba Ali and the Clockwork Djinn*, written with Day Al-Mohamed. She is also the author of the solo collections *Eternal Wanderings*, *A Legacy of Stars*, *Consigned to the Sea*, *Flash in the Can*, *Transcendence*, *Between Darkness and Light*, *The Fox's Fire*, *The Kindly One*, and the non-fiction

writers' guides *The Literary Handyman*, *More Tips from the Handyman*, and *LH: Build-A-Book Workshop*. She is the senior editor of the *Bad-Ass Faeries* anthology series, *Gaslight & Grimm*, *Side of Good/Side of Evil*, *After Punk*, and *Footprints in the Stars*. Her short stories are included in numerous other anthologies and collections.

In addition to her literary acclaim, she crafts and sells original costume horns under the moniker The Hornie Lady Custom Costume Horns, and homemade flavor-infused candied ginger under the brand of Ginger KICK! at literary conventions, on commission, and wholesale.

Danielle lives in New Jersey with husband and fellow writer, Mike McPhail and four extremely spoiled cats.

Guest of Honor: Blibbering Humdingers



The Blibbering Humdingers draw inspiration from the Harry Potter series, Dr Who, the SCA, medieval fantasy, science fiction and all kinds of delightfully, geeky fandomness. Scott and Kirsten Vaughan began performing together in 1992 in the SCA, where they are known as Efenwealt Wystle and Maîtresse Aénor d'Anjou.

With the release of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* in 2007, and upon encountering bands like Draco & the Malfoys, The Mudbloods, and The Moaning Myrtles, they decided to form their own wizard rock act. From there they've branched into all kinds of nerd rock, filk, folk and fun.

They live in Cary, NC (under the name Sanderz) with two kids and a cat named Rosemerta. (That s the cat s name. Neither of the kids are named Rosemerta.)

blibberinghumdingers.com



BALTICON 57

science fiction and fantasy convention
May 26-29, 2023

Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel
202 East Pratt St. Baltimore, MD 21202



Guest of Honor
JANE YOLEN

*Plus: Other
Special Guests &
Events!*



Artist Guest of Honor
Ariel Burgess



Music Guest of Honor
Brad Lee Howard



Fan Guest of Honor
Bryan "Bellz" Jordan



2022 Compton Crook
Award Winner
P. Djèlí Clark



2021 Compton Crook
Award Winner
Micaiah Johnson



2023 Compton Crook
Award Winner
TBA



2023 Robert Heinlein
Award Winner
TBA

Sponsored by the Baltimore Science Fiction Society, a 501(C)(3) non-profit educational organization.
PO Box 686
Baltimore, MD 21203-0686

BALTICON.ORG

Email: balticoninfo@balticon.org
Phone: 410-JOE-BSFS (563-2737)



ASL is available for main events and selected panels.

Program Schedule

Friday

3pm

Salon A

Concert: Rose the Harper. Track: Music (50 minutes)

Salon C

Panel: Free Speech and Feminism. A look at how the concept of feminism has affected what people write in their S/FF stories, how the language in the genre has changed to be acceptable to general S/FF fandom, and when S/FF stories cross that line, in the name of “Freedom of Expression.” Presenters: Ef Deal, Michelle Sonnier (50 minutes)

Salon D

Panel: How to Moderate. If you’ve never had to herd the cats that are S/FF fen, we’ll take a stab at trying to teach you how, in one sure to be confusing lesson. Presenters: D H Aire, Scott Edelman (50 minutes)

5pm

Valley

The Magic of Hula Hoops. Join Patches for some hula hoop fun. She’ll provide hoops and tunes. You bring a willingness to have a good time. Patches has a good track record of helping almost everyone learn to hoop. Other flow toys are welcome. Presenter: Patches (1 hour 20 minutes)

Salon A

Video: Clam Chowder Concert Track: Music (1 hour 20 minutes)

Salon C

Panel: What Makes Good SF/F? This is more-or-less an introductory panel on writing: what to aim for as a beginning writer, what to avoid, how to decide if your story is complete, how the medium (TV, feature-length movie, written story) affects how you write. Presenters: Scott Edelman, Michelle Sonnier, Ef Deal, D H Aire (50 minutes)

Salon F

Reading: Danielle Ackley-McPhail. Danielle will read from her works *Daire’s Devils* and *The Play of Light* (50 minutes)

6pm

Salon D

Panel: Powering Through Writer's Block. You've managed to write yourself into a corner. Your story has come to a screeching halt, and you've no idea where to go from here. What to do to deal with this situation? Simply write more story, and then try and edit out the garbage? Look for inspiration in your immediate environment? Ask yourself and your characters what might logically follow from the story so far? Tear it up and start all over? Presenters: Scott Edelman, Michelle Sonnier, Les Carter, Ef Deal, D H Aire (50 minutes)

6:30pm

Salon F

Filk Sing-Along. Welcome to Camp Chessiecon! Let's gather 'round the "fire" and sing! You know the tunes. We supply the words. Your Head Counselor (Filthy Pierre) will be at the keyboard. We'll sing the glories of the Outer Space Marines, and the miseries of slow elevators, and of Star Trek doings we'll never see in prime time. "Smores," anyone? Track: Music, Presenter: Erwin Strauss (50 minutes)

7pm

Salon E

Oneiromancy in *The Sandman*. In this panel you will receive a practitioner of the divinatory arts' perspective on the accuracy of the portrayal in Neil Gaiman's *The Sandman* (as compared to the historical/modern practices) of oneiromancy (divination utilizing dreams), as well as a discussion of how to implement the actual practice in your day-to-day life/spirituality. Track: Mythic, Presenter: John Weller (1 hour 20 minutes)

7:30pm

Salon D

Presentation: Basics of Crowdfunding. How to approach and carry through a crowdfunded project without driving yourself completely insane. Presenter: Danielle Ackley-McPhail (50 minutes)

8pm

Valley

Time Travelers' Social. Meet your fellow travelers for the weekend. Cosplay and garb are welcome. Live music for your adventures in time will be provided by our Music Guest of Honor the Blibbering Humdingers, Maugorn the Stray, and, depending upon the kindness of random forces beyond mortal comprehension, other friends. Catered refreshments. (1 hour 30 minutes)

10pm

Salon A

Filking. Join in the singing or just listen. Track: Music (2 hours)

Salon F

Reading: Michelle Sonnier. Michelle will read from her work “The Clockwork Solution” (30 minutes)

Saturday

10am

Valley

Mass Signing. Presenters: Danielle Ackley-McPhail, Michelle Sonnier, Margaret L Carter, Les Carter, Ef Deal (50 minutes)

Salon A

Presentation: What’s New in the Prehistoric Past? Fossils may be ancient, but we are discovering new things about them all the time. Find out about the latest news of the fossil record from paleontologist Dr. Thomas Holtz, University of Maryland and the National Museum of Natural History. (50 minutes)

Salon E

Presentation: Breathing Magic into Fiction Respectfully. This panel teaches prospective authors how to be inclusive of magical systems without stepping on the toes of the communities and cultures they come from. Also covered will be how to properly research and credit the communities from where you source elements of your magical systems. Track: Mythic, Presenter: Jessica Morán (50 minutes)

11:30am

Salon C

Panel: Bug-Eyed Monsters and Other Alien Menaces. S/FF literature is rife with all sorts of threats to humanity. From literal Bug-Eyed monsters that want to harvest your organs to *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* and *The Thing*, to benign-seeming aliens that want to control your mind. How might actual extraterrestrial threats manifest themselves? Presenters: Danielle Ackley-McPhail, Tom Holtz, Margaret L Carter, Les Carter (50 minutes)

Salon F

Kaffeeklatsch: Ef Deal. Have a morning beverage and chat with Ef Deal. Limited attendance. Signup at registration.

12pm

Salon A

Presentation: Medieval Music Show and Tell. A brief overview of music from around 1100 – 1600 CE. Blibbering Humdingers will showcase various instruments, and styles of music from Western Europe. No, they are not going to bore you with a lot of music theory. They are going to play some songs and give you some interesting facts. Track: Music (50 minutes)

1pm

Salon C

Panel: The Collusion of Horror, Fantasy and Science Fiction. We like to think of stories as falling into separate genres, but often a story will end up crossing genres. This panel examines, and will point out concepts and that might fit into any or all of the referenced genres. It should also include some examples of stories that illustrate these concepts, and how they do so, and what the purpose of cross-genre stories might be. Presenters: Scott Edelman, Michelle Sonnier, Margaret Carter, Ef Deal (50 minutes)

Salon E

Presentation: Tossing the Bones and Stones. A workshop on different types of casting methods for divination and how to educate yourself about them and utilize them properly. Track: Mythic, Presenter: John Weller (50 minutes)

1:30pm

Salon A

Concert: Chuck Parker. Track: Music (50 minutes)

2pm

Salon E

Remembrance: An Open Memorial, An open (non-denominational) gathering to honor those who have passed recently, and for the living to share memories, thoughts and prayers related to them and our community. Track: Mythic, Facilitators: John Weller and Jessica Morán (1 hour 20 minutes)

2:30pm

Salon C

Panel: Concepts in Non-Human Reproduction. In horror fiction, vampires & zombies are usually portrayed as reproducing by biting. In the ever-so famous Star Trek episode “The Trouble of Tribbles,” the tribbles reproduced by fission, similar to cell division. There have been stories including aliens who have three sexes, and the participation of all of them is necessary for their species reproduction. A look at how these concepts present themselves in S/FF. Presenters: Tom Holtz, Michelle Sonnier, Margaret L Carter, Ef Deal (50 minutes)

3pm

Salon A

Concert: TJ & Mitchell Burnside Clapp. Track: Music (50 minutes)

Foyer

Meet for Computer Museum Field Trip. Must be preregistered for the tour. See [Field Trip](#) page to register.

4pm

Salon C

Panel: Alien Cultures vs Human Cultures

Aliens have often been portrayed as humanoid-sorts of beings, particularly in visual media. But what sort of cultural differences might come about if an alien weren't at all humanoid? Presenters: Danielle A-M, Margaret L Carter, Ef Deal (50 minutes)

Salon E

Presentation: Decolonizing your Practice. This panel is meant to help in the process of building your personal craft/path without falling into the appropriation tropes of Western occultism as well as how to research folk magic respectfully across the globe. Track: Mythic, Presenter: Jessica Morán (1 hour 20 minutes)

4:30pm

Salon A

Concert: Kathy Sands. Track: Music (50 minutes)

5pm

Salon D

Workshop: Short SF/F vs Novels. So, you've written a story. It has a beginning, a middle and an end. But have you actually completed a story? Or, have you written more words than there is story to tell? A look at how to fine-tune your writing for the story you have. Presenters: Scott Edelman, Michelle Sonnier, Ef Deal, D H Aire (50 minutes)

6:30pm

Lounge

eSpec Book Launch. We take over the Con Suite for a few hours for author readings, goodie bags, and a raffle. The authors of the books will be at the launch. (2 hours)

9pm

Valley

GoH Concert: Blibbering Humdingers. Goofy nerd rock for wizards, witches, gamers, jedi, hobbits, time lords, LARPerS, browncoats, SCAdians, and all manner of hoopy froods. You'll be positively grunted by our non-sequitur nonsense and musical mayhem. (1 hour 30 minutes)

11pm

Valley

Turkey Awards Presentation. Cold reading of the nominees by our Guest of Honor followed by the results of the judging and awarding of dubious prizes. Presenters: Aleksandr Poryshkin, and Scott Vaughan and Chuck Parker of the Blibbering Humdingers.

After the Turkey Awards

Valley

Hallelujah Chorus. Leader: Crystal Paul

11:30pm

Salon A

Filking. Join in the singing or just listen. Track: Music (2 hours)

Salon F

Caroling. Track: Music, Presenter: Erwin Strauss.(1h 30 minutes)

Sunday

10am

Salon C

Panel: Dystopian Fiction: Subversive or Reaffirming? A look at how dystopian fiction might fill the role of social commentary/critique by carrying an underlying theme of subversion, subtle or overt. Or, how might dystopian fiction fill the role of reaffirming the type of society portrayed; possibly by negative example. Presenters: Scott Edelman, Michelle Sonnier, Ef Deal (50 minutes)

Salon F

Kaffeeklatsch: Danielle Ackley-McPhail. Have a morning beverage and chat with Danielle Ackley-McPhail. Limited attendance. Signup at registration.

11am

Valley

Workshop: Teaching Renaissance Dance. All are welcome to renaissance dance. Partners not needed. Patches will teach all the dances. Music is provided by a pickup band led by Maugorn; all musicians welcome to join. (1 hour 20 minutes)

Salon D

Workshop: Stand-alone Stories vs Series. So, you've written a story. It's complete, it's coherent, it has an interesting plot, believable world-building, engaging characters, all that good stuff. But has your story come to an actual end? If this part of the story is over, is there need or room for another part of the story? In other words, does it need a sequel, a prequel, or a somehow related different story?

Presenters: Danielle Ackley-McPhail, Michelle Sonnier, Margaret L Carter, Les Carter, Ef Deal, D H Aire (1 hour)

12pm

Salon A

Concert: Roberta Rogow. Roberta tells stories with music and verse, about Space Exploration, Klingons, Very Bad singers, and Things in Caves. Track: Music (50 minutes)

1:30pm

Salon A

Concert: Maugorn. Maugorn performs a variety of songs from many periods and genres on his arsenal of instruments. Track: Music (50 minutes)

2pm

Salon E

Presentation: Spell Work Through the Major Arcana. This panel teaches attendees the significance of each of the major cards in the Rider-Waite tarot and how to incorporate them into spell work inside and out of divinatory work. Track: Mythic, Presenter: John Weller (1 hour 20 minutes)

3pm

Salon A

Concert: Ian Hanley. Track: Music (50 minutes)

Salon C

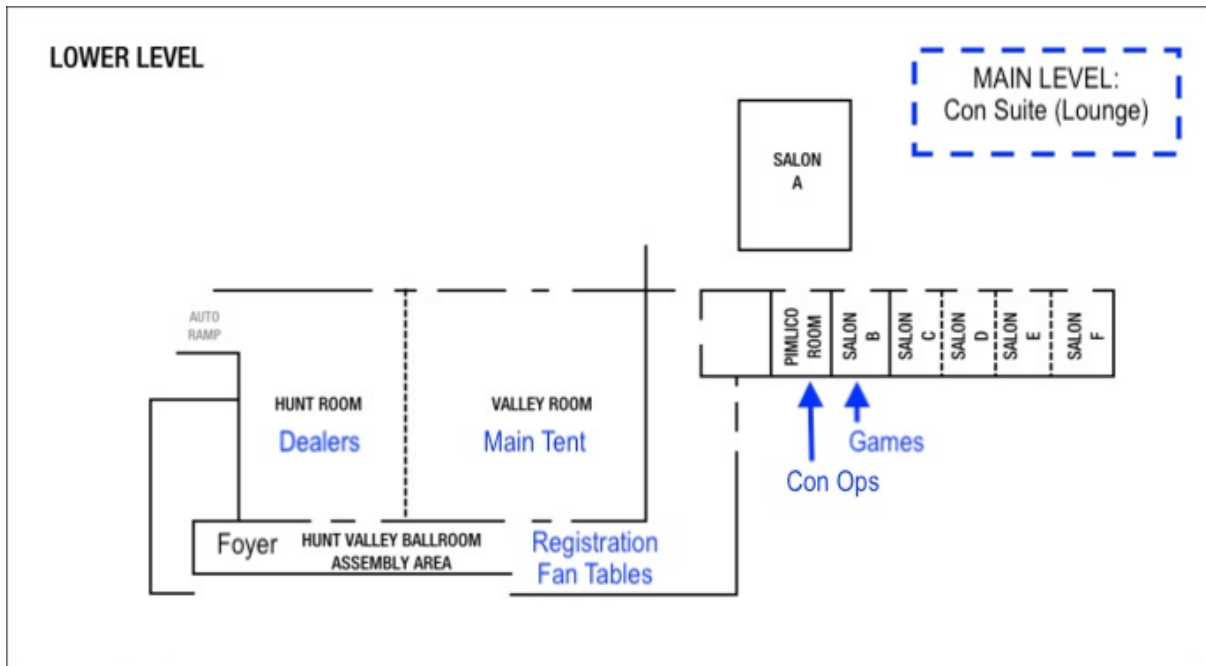
Feedback: Last Chessiecon? (50 minutes)

4pm

Salon A

Dead Sea Monster Filk. Track: Music (1 hour 45 minutes)

Function Space



Hours of Operation

Registration: Foyer

Friday 2pm – 10pm
 Saturday 9am – 10pm
 Sunday 9am – noon

Vendors: Hunt Room

Friday 4pm – 7pm
 Saturday 10am – 7pm
 Sunday 10am – 2pm

Fan Tables: Foyer

Friday 3pm – 9pm
 Saturday 10am – 8pm

Game Room: Salon B

Friday 4pm – midnight
 Saturday 11am – midnight
 Sunday 11am – 3pm

Con Suite: Lounge

Friday 6pm – midnight
 Saturday 9:30am – 6pm
 6:30- 8:30 (Book Launch)
 9pm – midnight
 Sunday midnight – 1pm

Presenters

Biographies are included if they were provided.

Danielle Ackley-McPhail, Literary Guest of Honor

Award-winning author, editor, and publisher Danielle Ackley-McPhail has worked both sides of the publishing industry for longer than she cares to admit. In 2014 she joined forces with husband Mike McPhail and friend Greg Schauer to form her own publishing house, eSpec Books (www.especbooks.com).

The Blibbering Humdingers, Music Guests of Honor, who are:

- Scott and Kirsten Vaughan began performing together in 1992 in the SCA around Raleigh, NC – where they are known as Efenwealt Wystle and Maîtresse Aénor d’Anjou. They started wizard rocking around 2007
- Scott and Kirsten’s sons, Aiden Vaughan and Liam Vaughan, play drums, keyboards, and other stuff
- Chuck Parker has been a regular on the con circuit for more than a decade, and he’s played ballrooms, bars, breweries, biergartens and backyards all over the country, both as a solo performer and as the bassist for wizard rock icons The Blibbering Humdingers. He plays slice of life, confessional geek tunes that are often kind of funny, and his lyrics have been called “sensitive”, “literate”, and “hard to sing...”

The Blibbering Humdingers draw inspiration from 80s rock/new-wave, 50s do-wop, old-timey singsongy stuff, Harry Potter, Dr Who, SCA, medieval fantasy, sci-fi and all kinds of delightfully, geeky fandomness. (<https://blibberinghumdingers.com/>)

TJ and Mitchell Burnside Clapp

Filkers TJ Burnside and Mitchell Clapp were married in 1989 and thus transformed into the colony creature surnamed Burnside Clapp. They have continued to write and perform their songs since then, along the way receiving Pegasus Awards and many Guest of Honor stints, and have produced three now-grown musical children.

Les Carter

After graduating with a B.S. in Physics from the College of William and Mary, Leslie Roy Carter was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. While serving as a naval officer, he earned an M.S.E.E. from the Naval Postgraduate School. As a surface line officer, he served aboard cruiser and destroyers, culminating in command of the frigate U.S.S. Reid. Retiring as Captain with 30 years in, he worked as a defense contractor before retiring to begin a third career, writing. He and his wife, Margaret, have collaborated on a four-book fantasy novel series, beginning with *Wild Sorceress*, and several stories in the Darkover anthologies.

Margaret L. Carter

Margaret L. Carter specializes in vampires. She writes horror, paranormal romance, and fantasy, plus nonfiction on vampirism in literature. Recent releases include *Against the Dark Devourer* (Lovecraftian dark paranormal romance) and *Chocolate Chip Charm* (light paranormal romance Christmas novella). She has had stories in the *Darkover* and *Sword and Sorceress* anthologies and coauthored fantasy novels with her husband, Leslie Roy Carter. Explore love among the monsters at Carter's Crypt: <http://www.margaretlcarter.com>

Ef Deal

Ef Deal's short fiction has been published in numerous online zines and anthologies as well as in *F&SF*. Her short story "Czesko" was given honorable mention in Gardner Dozois' *Year's Best Science Fiction and Fantasy*. Ef has been freelance line-editing and copy-editing for over thirty years. She is currently assistant fiction editor at *Abyss & Apex* magazine, and video editor for *Strong Women ~ Strange Worlds*. Her first novel *Esprit de Corpse* is available from eSpec Books, the first in a steampunk paranormal romance series involving the Twins of Bellefées. When she's not writing, Ef marches old-school alumni drum and bugle corps on soprano bugle; she also composes, arranges and directs music. She lives in Haddonfield, NJ, with her husband and two chows. She is an associate member of SFWA and an affiliate member of HWA. Her website is www.efdeal.net. Follow her blog Talespinner at efdeal.blogspot.com.

Scott Edelman

Scott Edelman has published more than 110 short stories in magazines and anthologies such as *Analog*, *Apex*, *The Twilight Zone*, and many others. His most recent collection is *Things That Never Happened from Cemetery Dance*. He's also the host of the *Eating the Fantastic* podcast, which since February 2016 has allowed listeners to eavesdrop on his meals with creators of the fantastic.

Ian Hanley**Tom Holtz**

Dr. Thomas R. Holtz, Jr. is Principal Lecturer in Vertebrate Paleontology at the Department of Geology, University of Maryland, College Park. His research focuses on the origin, evolution, adaptations, and behavior of carnivorous dinosaurs, and especially of tyrannosauroids (*Tyrannosaurus rex* and its kin). He is also a Research Associate with the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History.

Maugorn the Stray (AKA Steve Haug)

Maugorn is a full time musician from the DC area. He enjoys many styles, periods and genres as his wanderings take him through a kaleidoscope of different adventures. If you can't catch him live, you can tune in on the "Odd" Thursdays of the month to listen to him on Zoom. The session opens around 7:30 with music commencing at 8pm. <http://tinyurl.com/maugieshow>

Jessica Morán

Jessica Morán is a published fantasy author, witch, and poet. Being a lover of all things geeky, she combined her passion for food, fantasy, & magic and has not looked back. She hosts a TikTok channel

(@darksidefork) where she creates fandom and witchy inspired goodies on a budget. As a history buff she also has experience combining historical, archaeological, and pop culture studies into her craft in unique ways. As a passionate fan, proud Latina, author, poet, and historian she offers her unique perspectives on how to make fandom inclusive, safe, and appealing to all with humor and just the right amount of sass.

Patches

Patches has been teaching renaissance dance since the 2000s. She has a passion for teaching and is thrilled when she can share dance with others.

Aleksandr Poryshkin

He seems to have his fingers in a lot of pies. In addition to serving as the ConChair for 2020, 2021 & 2022, he was also involved with Darkovercon, the predecessor of Chessiecon, for many years. He is also involved with a wide range of local SF and gaming conventions, and a few other counter-culture events. Too many to list here.

Roberta Rogow

Roberta writes mysteries, set in strange and unusual times and places. She also writes and sings Filk. When she is not at a SF or Mystery con, Roberta is a retired Children's Librarian, living in New Jersey.

Michelle Sonnier

Kathy Sands

Rose the Harper

Erwin Strauss

Erwin S. (Filthy Pierre) Strauss is a leading exponent of the group-singalong style of filk singing. He's been doing such sessions in Boston and elsewhere for decades. He's the publisher of the famous Microfilk collection of 550 filksongs (now downloadable free as a PDF at fanac.org).

John Weller

Long a fan of sci-fi, fantasy and metaphysics, John Weller is also an accomplished occultist, diviner and the current head of Chessiecon's Mythic Track. With over 20 years of experience in the theoretical & practical application of various spiritual disciplines, he has a background in philosophy, theology & technical writing, and is currently working on his updated approach to Western Occultism and Ceremonial Magic.

Vendors

Chessiecon is pleased to have the following vendors exhibiting this year:

[e-Spec Books](#) – Books and crafts

Undiscovered Treasures – Jewelry

Larry Smith Books – Books

[White Wolf and Phoenix](#) – Fiber/fiber arts

Rare Dandy – Gothic/historical inspired accessories

Nate Hoffelder – Web designer

The Jadesin Journals ([Espereva Ink](#)) – Books

[D.H. Aire, Author](#) – Books

Sugar Daddy's Fudge and Candy – Candy and chocolate

Palaver Games – Language RPG

Logan McNelly – Prints and buttons

Crowning Beauty – Tiaras

E.R. Griffin – Books

[Little Lolita Lexey](#) – Cat and dog inspired wearable art

[A New Look On Books](#) – Books

Mike Walsh – Books



Chessiecon Turkey Award Contest

Rules

1. Entries shall be imagined as the worst possible opening to the worst possible SF/F novel (n)ever written. Contestants may make as many entries as desired, but each submission should be clearly delineated from others. Only one dubious prize will be awarded per entrant regardless of number of entries.
2. Each entry may consist of a single sentence or a paragraph not to exceed 80 words in length.
3. Each entry must be original work, and not previously published or entered into The Turkey Awards.
4. Entrants should strongly resist the temptation to work with puns based on Edward Bulwer-Lytton's famous opening to "Paul Clifford", ("It was a dark and stormy night...") or Jim Thies' "The Eye of Argon".
5. Entries may be made by e-mail or by surface mail.
 - E-mail submissions should be made in the body of the message, not an attachment, and should be sent to: turkeys@chessiecon.org with the subject line of "Turkey Award Submission(s)".
 - Surface mail submissions should be sent by post card or letter to:
TSFS, Inc.
P.O. Box 83032
Gaithersburg, MD 20883-3032
Attn: Turkey Award Submission
 - Entries should also be clearly marked with the entrant's name.
6. Contest entries will be presented and judged during a panel at Chessiecon 2022.
7. Contest judges are not eligible to win.
8. Dubious prizes will be awarded for 3rd-Worst, 2nd-Worst and Worst Place.
9. Deadline for entries will be 11/24/2022



2022 Winning Entries

Dishonorable Mention:

to Brandon Case

Born illegally and raised on ozone and liquorice. Amos was the founding bassist of the petrol-punk three-piece, Stellar Corpse. He became front man when the former lead, Ignus K ascended to godhood

and drowned his audience in a deluge of water spiked with toad venom. Their last track “Shiv the Panther” coughed into the airways a year ago today. The same night the malformed silhouette of Armageddon, cast into the walls outside his dressing room, was seen for the last time.

Third Worst Place:

to Dan Peacock

We were in the multi-storey hover-park then. A man came running up the ramp screaming, a laser knife sticking out of his chest. We didn’t react. Not even when he yanked the knife from his torso and painted the walls with a fluorescent cherry-red arc. Suddenly, a blinding nuclear green spotlight crawled up the ceiling, shining from the square headlights of an approaching pickup truck. The Radio Skeletons of Tiger Mansion had arrived and were on the hunt.

Second Worst Place:

to Ef Deal

Was a time I’d a let the Flakker Squad squat a ferl or two at my bar, zipgunning good clients complaining about the gutsplatter in their drinks while the Squad rounds up their bounties before I had to call time, but I was younger then and these days ain’t got time or patience for them snake-faced Skanfarian side-winders in the atmo-hoppers flashing badges on us outworld colonies tryin’ to make an honest living pumping a little nuke juice into neck receptors for a few homesick steaders, so that’s how I ended up faceplate to faceplate with a Flakker captain, my laser blaster up his cloaca before the rest of the Squad could stop me. “Sorry fellas,” I told ’em. “Bar’s closed.”

Worst Place:

to Brandon Case

Chief Ryan stood in the ancient castle’s command center, watching Senior Chief Martinez gesticulate wildly with her smooth hands. She commanded him to fire the magic guns, so he lit each iron cannon, launching a barrage of magic swords into space and killing all the Aliens. “Good,” Martinez said, “now we can mate in peace.” Ryan took off all his clothes. “I’m ready,” he cried. He was wrinkled like a hairless cat, but she didn’t seem to mind.

2021 Winning Entries

Dishonorable Mention:

to Katy Lewis

Mirabelle mounted her giant racing millepede and held tight to the harness straps as Millie reared up, twisting her twelve-foot length into a passable, if tottering, music clef. “Bravo girl!” Mirabelle whooped, a human tick on Millie’s back as she unspooled her two-ton body. Millie’s 240 pink silk pointe shoes flashed like pistons to music only the arthropod could hear as, like a glossy black Daimler semi-truck, she danced en pointe to the starting line of the Legs Up Challenge.

3rd-Worst Place:

to Rodger Burns

“DEATH TO ALL WHO OPPOSE US!” bellowed Space Pirate Veqirhin as he boarded the orbital station, pre-splattered blood clinging to the blade of his laser cutlass. A grey-hued hologram abruptly appeared before him and declared, “Fleet Accounting now calculates a mere 7.39234 (repeating) % chance your raid will be profitable. We are accordingly revoking your oxygen supply, effective immediately. Goodbye.” “NOOOOOO—” bellowed Vekkrin, but the rest of his words disappeared along with his breathable air.

2nd-Worst Place:

to Laura Wenham

Caroline squinted at the stocky figures deliberating outside in the rain that gushed from the guacamole-colored sky like blood from a bad nosebleed. She whispered, “Are students really cutting class while tornado sirens wail?” As they stomped closer, Caroline realized, “Wait, that’s a group of little men... wearing armor!” She watched in horror as a funnel cloud formed and the frantically flailing forms were sucked into the twister like hairballs into a vacuum.

-Thorin and Company Travel to Oz

Worst Place:

to Jo Hogan

She was violently aware of all his golden blue eyes on her. And his lying tongue. And sharp ears. Because she had gouged them all out with her mind and now it was all a mess like a nebular swirl of stickiness and she regretted nothing and everything and none of it and all all at once. It all started when he had asked for her hand in marriage. But that’s not where our story begins — it begins in Prague.

Shore Leave 43

A Fan-run Media Science Fiction Con in Baltimore, MD
 Presented by the STAT Club of Maryland, Inc.

7-9 July 2023

We will celebrate fandom with:

discussion panels, guest Q&A, writing workshops, stargazing, game room, actor photo ops, actor and author signing sessions, masquerade, art show, film festival, vendors, science programming, charity events, children and teen programming, and so much more.



www.shore-leave.com

Guests will be announced as soon as they are confirmed.

Con registration is now open.

Watch our website for news!



For Hotel Information:

Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley
 245 Shawan Road
 Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031

Tel. 410-785-7000 or 866-764-8359

(Hotel reservations for 2023 are being taken now)
 Make your own reservations and mention **Shore Leave** for a special room rate of \$139 plus applicable taxes.

For Any Other Information:

Shore Leave
 PO Box 6809
 Towson, Maryland 21285-6809

Email: go to www.shore-leave.com/contacts/ and click on the applicable link.

Chessiecon Code of Conduct

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to prevent the behavior of one individual from disturbing the rest of the members. It applies to all pre-con, at-the-con, and post-con activities related to Chessiecon. All members are encouraged to read this code and ask questions about anything they do not understand.

Chessiecon is prepared to deal with any violations of the code as legally, rapidly, and efficiently as possible. We hope that each member will help to make Chessiecon an enjoyable experience for all, by respecting the rights of all attendees.

Failure to adhere to the code of conduct may result in:

- Verbal warnings
- Mediation by the Con Chair and Convention Head of Security with all parties involved in an incident
- Turning the individual over to hotel/convention center staff/security
- Revocation of membership and ejection from Chessiecon
- Contacting local law enforcement

Chessiecon reserves the right to revoke memberships and to eject individuals from Chessiecon at any time for violations of this code, regardless of whether any other actions have been taken. No refunds will be provided.

Badges

Chessiecon is a membership event. Chessiecon requires that all in attendance have membership badges for the convention and that said membership badges be worn and clearly visible at all times within the convention function spaces.

A badge is only valid for the individual to whom it was issued. Badges may not be shared or given to another party. Violation of this will result in removal from Chessiecon.

Children

A parent or designated adult must be responsible for children under the age of 12 at all times. We expect each child to have a cell phone number for parents or guardians and/or a room number written on the back of their badge, so that staff members may contact the responsible adults should the need arise. Chessiecon does not provide babysitting, and is not responsible for children left unattended. In particular, Chessiecon is not responsible for identifying parents and guardians, or for preventing a child from leaving a room or the hotel. If you do not trust your child to stay where you expect them to be – DO NOT LEAVE THEM.

Personal Interaction

We ask that you respect others. We want everyone to be comfortable and feel safe while attending Chessiecon.

- Harassment of others will not be tolerated and is a violation of the code of conduct.
- If someone asks you to leave them alone, walk away and do not approach them again. There is no reason for you to have any further interaction with them. If you feel there is, speak with a member of the convention committee or staff, and an intermediary will be found to conduct whatever transactions are necessary. Apologizing to someone is not leaving them alone.
- Discrimination against any convention member based on irrelevant characteristics will not be tolerated and is a violation of the code of conduct. Such irrelevant characteristics include but are not limited to: gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical/mental disability.
- Assumption of a performance persona does not justify the assumption of familiarity by those viewing the performance. Treat our performers with respect at all times, no matter how bawdy or suggestive their act.
- If you feel that you have been harassed or discriminated against:
 - a. Politely tell the individual that their behavior is inappropriate. Sometimes this is sufficient.
 - b. If you do not feel comfortable talking with the individual or individuals involved, or if talking to them once does not work, please immediately report the situation to any Chessiecon committee or staff member. If possible provide names or badge names and physical descriptions of those involved. The committee or staff member will notify Convention Head of Security and/or the Con Chair.
- PLEASE consider reporting any potential violation of the code of conduct. Unless an incident is reported, nothing can be done.

Public Parties

- Only certain convention hotel rooms are available for parties. All public parties must be coordinated with Chessiecon.
- No one under 21 may be served alcohol. Hosts are required to card anyone who wishes to drink at their event. Attempting to drink while under 21 or knowingly serving alcohol to someone under 21 is a violation of the code of conduct and Maryland law, and will result in removal from Chessiecon.
- Props that resemble weapons should not be brought to parties.

Hotel Interactions

We ask that you follow any and all rules set by the convention hotel.

- The person under whose name the room is rented is solely responsible for the conduct of all individuals in the room and for the condition of the room. Excessive trash, any act of vandalism, deliberate or excessive damage to the hotel room or its contents, or any interference with the hotel staff will be handled by the hotel and does not involve the convention.
- Individuals, regardless of whose name the room is rented in, will be billed for said damages by the hotel. In addition, individuals may be evicted from the hotel and/or the convention and may also face criminal charges.
- The flying of drones, hot air balloons, or other self-propelled devices within the hotel is prohibited outside of specifically designated spaces and times.

Smoking

Smoking is not allowed inside the hotel or within 25 feet of any entrance to the hotel. Smoking within a hotel room will be considered vandalism. Please confine smoking to designated outside areas only. Do not litter.

Service Animals

All guests, please remember that service animals are there to assist their owners and are working very hard at their job. Please do not distract service animals from their work, and do not touch anyone's service animal without explicit permission.

Weapons

- The only weapons permitted to be worn or carried in the public areas of the hotel during the convention will be costume weapons of an obviously unreal nature, such as fantasy, steampunk, or science fictional weapons. All blades and pistols must be sheathed and peace-bonded at all times, except during specifically exempted convention programming. Any bows or crossbows must be unstrung or strung with string or twine only. Any projectile weapon must be unloaded and incapable of firing projectiles. Weapons purchased in the dealers' room must be packaged in the dealers' room and may only be carried from the dealers' room to a car or hotel room immediately after purchase or from the hotel for transport home. Any weapon allowed by this policy that may still cause problems is prohibited. If you have questions, speak to the convention chairperson before carrying the object in question into public space.
- No object, be it replica weapon, vacuum cleaner hose or anything else, may be used in a threatening or dangerous manner.

Privacy, Photography, and Electronic Recording

This is a private event; by registering, individuals grant Chessiecon and designated photographers a non-exclusive right to photograph, videotape, otherwise record, and publish (in print or electronically)

themselves, companions, activities, costumes, artwork, sales goods, and other property used or displayed in their normal participation of the convention.

Photographers, ask permission before you photograph or audio/videotape any individual or group. Anyone who does not wish to be photographed or recorded should state their wishes unambiguously.

We presume that you are acting in an amateur capacity unless otherwise stated. Articles or media coverage released after the convention may earn you a membership to the next Chessiecon.

Individuals or organizations violating these guidelines by selling, reproducing, broadcasting, or publishing materials obtained at a Chessiecon convention without permission may be guilty of copyright violation and/or trespass, and may be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. If you have any questions as to what is appropriate, contact us at info@chessiecon.org for further information.

Sales of Merchandise

The offering for sale of any merchandise must be confined to designated areas and done only with the permission of Chessiecon.

Chessiecon reserves the right to amend the code of conduct at any time without prior or posted notice and reserves the sole right of interpretation. The rules stated above are not all inclusive. Any action or behavior that is illegal, unsafe, or causes significant interference with convention operations, excessive discomfort to members, or adversely affects Chessiecon's relationship with its guests, the venue, or the public is strictly forbidden.

COVID-19 Safety Policy

1. The health and safety of all Chessiecon members, staff, and hotel staff is Chessiecon's first priority. To that end Chessiecon will require all members, vendors and staff to be fully vaccinated at the convention.
2. Chessiecon will follow or exceed all State and Local rules and regulations, and all hotel policies for indoor activities in effect for the duration of the convention.
3. In addition, all members, vendors, and staff shall at all times wear a mask that covers both nose and mouth, except while eating or drinking, or if wearing an opaque mask, for brief periods necessary for communication to the hearing-impaired.
4. Members shall present proof of vaccination at check-in, such proof consisting of:
 - a. Vaccination Record: a physical vaccine card, a physical copy of said card, or an electronic copy of said vaccine card, or a vaccine QR code as an acceptable form of vax proof; and
 - b. ID: proof of identity matching the name of the person on the card (For minors, word of parent or guardian is considered proof of identity.)
5. Due to the above requirements, we ask that children who are not eligible for the vaccine not attend the convention.

6. In the event that a member has already paid for a membership, and is unable or unwilling to comply with this policy, TSFS will refund the member's payment. At the option of the member, the membership may be rolled over to Chessiecon 2023.
7. If you have questions about this policy, email info@chessiecon.org