



**FOGCON**

MARCH 30-APRIL 1, 2012

**#2**



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## Comments from the Chair

Welcome to FOGcon 2!

It's wonderful to see you here. Thank you for coming!

Starting a new convention can be both uncertain and exciting, and usually it's both at the same time. I've been developing my new drink called Con Chair Surprise: it consists of three shots of vodka, a cup of sugar, and two Alka-Seltzers.

For FOGcon 2, we're delighted to bring you the theme of The Body, with Honored Guest Nalo Hopkinson present and Honored Guest Shelley Jackson in absentia. Even though Shelley had to cancel at the last minute, both of them have prepared exciting presentations for you on Saturday afternoon. We hope that you love our Honored Guests as much as we do. We have the same focus on great programming as we did last year, and a new hotel to explore. And we've got a terrific consuite. We hope to keep improving and growing FOGcon over years to come.

I want to stress the fact that FOGcon relies on you, the attendees, to help us be the great convention that we strive for. We cannot exist without your support. Please consider volunteering! We operate on 100% volunteer work. You can take a shift in the consuite, offer a specialized talent you have, or serve on the ConCom in a variety of roles. If you can't volunteer, we understand that; please consider making a donation to help us thrive. Talk to the folks at the Registration table if you'd like to help FOGcon.

Lastly, I hope that you leave the con with more ideas, more friends, and the same number of bodily organs that you entered with.

--Vylar Kaftan, Chair

## Important numbers

Convention Safety Committee: (510) 972-3399

Walnut Creek Marriott hotel security: Just dial "0" on a hotel phone.

Police and medical help: 911 (emergencies only)

National Sexual Assault Hotline: (800) 656-4673 (24 hour crisis line)

Yellow Taxi in Walnut Creek: (925) 934-1234

*"I patch together a living language out of reanimated parts, like Frankenstein, and feel no disgust at scrabbling in the charnel house. Each of us makes her own monster, who earns a cozy co-tenancy of our tomb. We're all the last native speakers of a language that dies with us. Am I so special for tasting the rot on my tongue? For knowing whose remains I'm kitted out in?" — Shelley Jackson*



## Convention Committee

Vylar Kaftan, Chair

Corie Ralston, Vice Chair

Laurel Amberdine, Registration

Chris Boros, Registration

Alan Bostick, Safety Team

Keyan Bowes, Writer's Workshop and Dealers Room

Michele Cox, Programming and Local Guide

Eva Folsom, Volunteer Coordinator

Sonja Haas, Treasurer

Lynn Alden Kendall, Website and Disability Access

Zed Lopez, Logistician

Debbie Notkin, Hotel Liaison and Convention Advisor

Steven Schwartz, Programming and Honored Guest Liaison

Wendy Shaffer, Hospitality and Student Story Contest

Aaron I. Spielman, Publicity

Daniel Starr, Hospitality

Guy W. Thomas, Publications

*"Our own physical body possesses a wisdom which we who inhabit the body lack. We give it orders which make no sense". — Henry Miller*

*"Good for the body is the work of the body, good for the soul the work of the soul, and good for either the work of the other." — Henry David Thoreau*

### **Thank you**

I couldn't have put this program book together without a lot of help. I'd like to thank the entire concom for all their work and for being a particularly patient and fun group of people to be around. I'd like to thank Nisi, Nick and Phoebe for generously giving of their talent. As always I'd like to thank Carol and Serene for being who they are. — Guy W. Thomas

*"What spirit is so empty and blind, that it cannot recognize the fact that the foot is more noble than the shoe, and skin more beautiful than the garment with which it is clothed?" -- Michelangelo*





Photo Credit: David Findlay

## Nalo Hopkinson

### Always More: An Appreciation of Nalo Hopkinson

"Now I know why you love her," Leslie Howle told me after Nalo Hopkinson first taught at the Clarion West Writers Workshop.

Leslie administers the six-week intensive's yearly sessions. She had witnessed in person the bounty Nalo brings to her teaching, the generosity of time and energy and ideas on offer to the emerging writers of that 2001 class. She'd heard Nalo's lecture on creating erotica, she'd read the responses to Nalo's assignments, she'd watched the students' faces turn simultaneously bright and still as they listened to Nalo's fierce, fair, patient analyses of their stories and critiques.

I didn't agree with Leslie, though. I didn't think she truly understood all the many reasons why I loved Nalo then. And now that love has grown. To know Nalo is to

love her, and there is always more to know and love.

I originally heard of Nalo during lunch with Betsy Mitchell, who at the time was the editor of Warner's Aspect line. Betsy was telling me she didn't want to buy my novel *The Blazing World*, while sharing with me the premise of one she *had* bought, Nalo's *Brown Girl in the Ring*. A situation tailor-made for professional jealousy, right? But I resisted the pull of that pointless emotion and read the book. My freakin mother of god, it was good.

Audacity is- the quickest way to win my heart, and *Brown Girl* is pure-D audacious. It assumes in the reader a clear, easy understanding of class and race politics. It expects its audience to enjoy the enchantments of vernacular speech and represents them plainly. The book's heroine, Ti-Jeanne, faces down organ-harvesting medical companies and necromancing gang leaders. She refuses to be overwhelmed by superior numbers, high-finance, or unfair manipulation of invisible forces. She dares much and wins. I fell in love. I've been falling ever since.

(Continued on page 36)

"The body is the original magnetic object: it has both a bumptious physicality and a metaphoric life." — Shelley Jackson

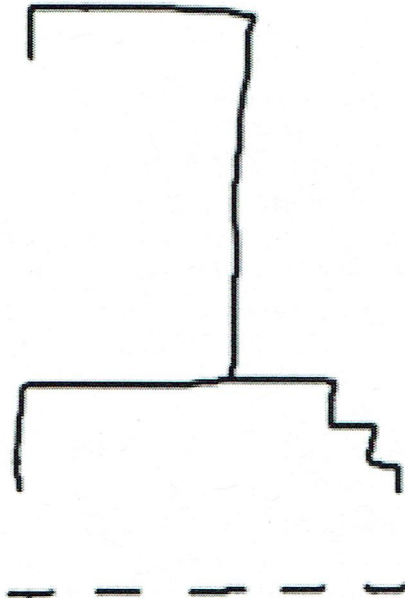




## Shelley Jackson

My friend Geoffrey is a Word, and that word is Trees, with a capital letter as though the word begins a sentence. Kelly Link is a Word too. You also may know some Words personally. And these Words belong to Shelley Jackson. The SKIN Project is a story written on tattoos and available exclusively on flesh. Good luck reading it—even if you managed to get all the Words together, how would you organize them?

Shelley Jackson's work brings both body and word to the breaking point. Her hypertext novel *Patchwork Girl* remixes, and restitches Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and L. Frank Baum's *The Patchwork Girl of Oz*. Unlike those exemplars of the early modern fantastic, *Patchwork Girl* is compatible Mac OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard, downcha know?) Even her traditionally executed stories—the sort one might read on paper—are extremely unusual. A personal favorite is named:



Her novel *Half Life* is less weird in that it has a spine and pages and is mostly words and sentences, though the body is still a focus of its story of conjoined twins and the world(s) they create, together and alone. *Half Life* won the 2006 James Tiptree Junior Award.

(Continued on page 38)

"Our bodies are our gardens - our wills are our gardeners." -- William Shakespeare





## Mary Shelley

Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin Shelley was 19 years old when she began to write *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*. She finished it a year later and it was published shortly thereafter, in 1819. It has never been out of print since.

Credited with being the first science fiction novel, *Frankenstein* was written during a sojourn in Switzerland (where it is primarily set) which she shared with her lover (later husband), the famous poet Percy Bryce Shelley, Lord Byron and Polidari, an Italian writer and physician, all of them escaping the stifling, critical culture of their families and society in London. Byron suggested a contest: they would each write a

supernatural, scary story for their own amusement. Mary was the only one who finished the task, although Byron's half-done effort was later re-worked by Polidari as the short story *The Vampyre*, the first vampire tale in print.

Mary Shelley doubtless couldn't escape the dark corners of her early life. The daughter of William Godwin, a harsh man famous for his radical social theories (*An Enquiry into Political Justice*) and the notorious feminist Mary Wollstonecraft (*A Vindication of the Rights of Women*), she had a stormy childhood. Her father bullied her. Her mother died from the complications of Mary's birth. Godwin remarried and burdened Mary's life with siblings to raise. Her life in her early twenties was not all sunshine. She was almost constantly pregnant during her affair and marriage to Percy, but her babies died. Then Percy drowned in a boating accident.

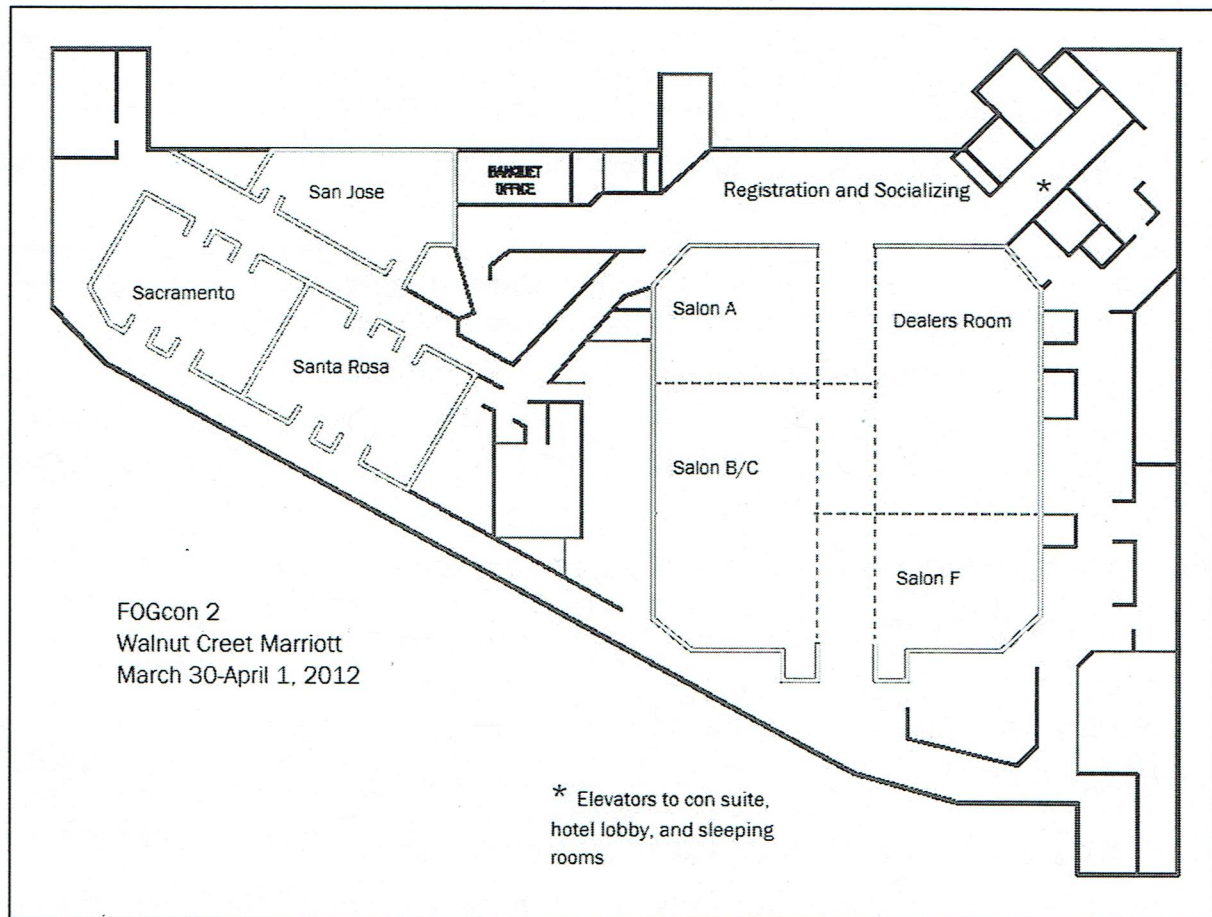
As a young, pretty, intelligent woman in London, she had moved in a circle of poets, artists, and intellectuals who spent their time debating the "new" philosophies and the new sciences of electricity, galvanism, theories of life and death, and attending lectures and demonstrations. In those days, it was possible for the public to observe the autopsies of dead criminals, though there is no

*(Continued on page 38)*

*"How do I know anything? How is it that my arms stretched out in front of me are so pale? How do I even know that they should be brown like riverbank mud, as they were when I was many goddesses with many worshippers, ruling in lands on the other side of a great, salty ocean? I used to be many, but now we are one, all squeezed together, many necks in one coffin. " — Nalo Hopkinson*



## Our Hotel



*"I use the word 'fat' I use that word because that's what people are: they're fat. They're not bulky; they're not large, chunky, hefty or plump. And they're not big-boned. Dinosaurs were big-boned. These people are not overweight: this term somehow implies there is some correct weight. There is no correct weight. Heavy is also a misleading term. An aircraft carrier is heavy; it's not fat. Only people are fat, and that's what fat people are! They're fat!" -- George Carlin*

## Hotel

Debbie Notkin

Welcome to the Walnut Creek Marriott!

The convention function space is all on level B2, accessible by both elevators and stairs. Registration is outside the function space on that level. You'll find programming both directly beyond the registration space and down the hall.

The hospitality suite (the Santa Monica and Santa Barbara Rooms) is on the second floor, close to the elevator lobby.

The hotel restaurant, the Main Street Grill, on the ground floor, is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Right by the Main Street Grill you'll find the bar, which is open until 12:30 a.m. or so, later if there's enough interest.

Hotel guests have access to the heated outdoor pool and the fitness center.

If you have questions or concerns about the hotel during the convention, please find the person on Safety shift, the con chair or vice chair on duty, or me, and we'll do our best to help.

## Registration

Laurel Amberdine and Chris Boros

Thursday 7pm - 8pm

Friday 11am - 9pm

Saturday 9am - 2pm

Sunday 10am - noon

## Consuite: Santa Monica Room

Daniel Starr and Wendy Shaffer

The consuite is in the Santa Monica Room on the second floor. We'll have snacks and drinks to accommodate a fair range of diets; we'll be doing our best to have ingredient lists available and avoid cross-contamination.

Friday noon - 2am

Saturday 8am - 2am

Sunday 8am - 4pm (Dead Frog Party: Sunday 4pm - 8pm)

## Dealers Room: Salon D/E

Keyan Bowes

The Dealers room will have books, comics, jewelry, handicrafts, and ... a massage therapist! Please note the hours. Nothing is more frustrating than leaving a planned purchase for later, after a panel, or when this reading's done -- and finding the Dealer Room locked.

Friday, 3pm - 7pm

Saturday, 10am - 6pm

Sunday, 10am - 3pm



## **Readings** *Santa Rosa*

## **Quiet(er) Room (daytimes)** *Salon F*

### **Safety Team** Alan Bostick

The Safety team is here to help FOGcon attendees have an enjoyable and successful convention. We will try to be there to try to respond to difficulties and relieve them. Did you leave a handbag in a program area that is locked after hours? Are two people working out a relationship issue in the con suite in a way that is making other people uncomfortable? Does a line of people waiting for function space to open need to be moved to guarantee access to a staircase or other doorway? Is the hotel getting noise complaints about a party? Is someone paying attention to you that you find unwelcome or excessive?

Is an attendee having a severe allergic reaction to something in the convention environment and needs immediate medical attention? Is something unusual happening that might impact on the safety or satisfaction of convention attendees?

The Safety team will be on the scene to be first responder in situations like these, to smooth things on to spot and to bring in the right people -- be they convention staff, hotel employees, or outside response (police, EMTs, etc.) as needed.

If you find yourself in or near a situation which calls for assistance by the Safety team member on duty, look for the person wearing the day-glo vest, or call them the number 510-972-3399 (510-9-SAFE-99). In case of an immediately dangerous situation, of course, call 9-1-1.

### **Programming** Steven Schwartz and Michele Cox

**Friday, March 30**

1:30-2:45 P.M.

#### **Body and Mind: Smash the Binary**

*Salon B/C*

Body/Mind duality is a staple of Western philosophy and metaphysics, from the ancient Greeks through René Descartes through the present day. Is this a false duality or an essential truth? Come the Singularity, when we upload our personalities to the Cloud, what will be left behind or left out?

*Moderator: Amy Sundberg*

*Panelists: Ian Hagemann, Bill Humphries, Brooks Moses*

## 75-Minute Writing Workout

*Sacramento*

Hone your fiction-writing skills in a timed environment. All writers are welcome.

*Moderator: Vylar Kaftan*

3:00-4:15 P.M.

## Apple Pie, Rayguns, and Galactic Overlords

*Salon B/C*

Tropes encode vast bits of narrative, bringing up memories of other things we've read and seen and relieving the author of some of the burden of exposition. How does this work? Where do tropes come from? What is their lifecycle? (That is, how do they segue from cognitive triggers and narrative support elements to tedious vehicles for cliché?) Can we catalog tropes? What is the, uh, scope of a trope? (Sorry.) Do scopes map nicely to subgenres?

*Moderator: Daniel Starr*

*Panelists: Naamen Tilahun, Daniel Marcus, Michele Cox*

## Judging a Book by the Girl on Its Cover

*Sacramento*

Once upon a time, genre novels were frequently graced with scantily-clad women on the cover, whether or not the hotties were relevant to the contents. Nowadays....well, have things really changed? Let's talk about the portrayal of women on genre book covers, how they might have changed, and what they mean.

*Moderator: Jaym Gates*

*Panelists: Marie Brennan, Jean Marie Stine, Elsa Hermens*

## Outlaw Bodies Roundtable

*San Jose*

Sometimes, just being who you are is enough to make you an outlaw -- whether that's because you're a POC in a sundown town, a genderqueer person in a sexually-binary society, or a cyborg in a flesh-only space station. What examples of this do we have in the literature, and how do people cope -- both in the real world and in the literature? This will be a roundtable/ salon-type discussion.

*Facilitator: Lori Selke*

## Readings: Valerie Frankel, Carol Dorf, Erin Hoffman

*Santa Rosa*

*"The body never lies."  
-- Martha Graham*



## **FOGcon 2**

4:30-5:45 P.M.

### **Designing Alien Bodies**

*Salon B/C*

Aliens are probably going to have very different biology than humans do. How do bodies evolve from their surrounding environments? What might be different if an alien evolved in a waterless wasteland, or a chlorine swamp, or in the goo-powered city we designed at FOGcon 1?

*Moderator: Ann Wilkes*

*Panelists: Carol Dorf, M. Christian, David Levine*

### **Genre Balkanization**

*Salon A*

Subgenres are flourishing, and a reader may be dedicated to vampire romance, steampunk, space opera, monster-hunting adventure, or many others. What does it imply for the genre and for fandom?

*Moderator: Carolyn Cooper*

*Panelists: Nick Mamatas, Shannon Page, Keffy R. M. Kehrli, Randy Smith*

### **Equal Time for Non-Vampires**

*Sacramento*

Vampires, werewolves, zombies, fairies: they all have great stories, but surely there are other kinds of monsters out there. What are the best of the less-familiar monsters, in fiction or in legend? Who are the authors doing a great job with creatures we haven't yet seen thirty times over?

*Moderator: Mickey Phoenix*

*Panelists: Anaea Lay, Marie Brennan, Jaym Gates*

### **Readings: Cassie Alexander, Mary Anne Mohanraj**

*Santa Rosa*

8:00-9:15 P.M.

### **The Redefined Body**

*Salon B/C*

Up to now, science has mostly focused on repairing our existing bodies. What happens when our technology is good enough to let us change our bodies, or control other things as if they were parts of our bodies? How might technology let us go beyond keeping healthy and into changing our physical selves? What fiction or nonfiction books do the best job painting the upcoming possibilities?

*Moderator: Alan Bostick*

*Panelists: Emily Jiang, Eva Folsom, Erin Hoffman*

## **FOGcon vid show**

*Salon F*

Vids are fannish mashups, new stories and concepts told through bits of existing video from movies and TV shows. The best are amazingly awesome. Come see!

*Presenter: Laura Shapiro*

## **ConTention**

*Sacramento*

Last year we kicked off FOGcon 1 with "ConTention" -- a panel all about arguing; the sort of arguments that cause flamewars to erupt in newsgroups, or bring other discussions to a grinding halt. Here's where we can have them and have fun with them. Last year, Miéville, Card, Tolkien, and many others were the subject of argument -- what'll it be this year? Without audience participation, there's no event: bring your favorite arguments with you!

*Moderators: Steven Schwartz, Liz Henry*

## **Readings: Vylar Kaftan, Liz Argall, Christie Yant**

*Santa Rosa*

9:30-10:45 P.M.

## **Unwoman, Cellist and Singer (performance)**

*Salon B/C*

Unwoman is a San Francisco-based cellist-singer- composer-producer. She performs with her solo voice-cello act in the Bay Area, is frequently featured at major steampunk, science fiction, and goth events, plays cello with Stripmall Architecture, Abney Park, Vernian Process and other acts, and has also toured the US with Voltaire in 2009 and Rasputina in 2006. Unwoman has released five original albums over a 10-year span. In September 2011 she released Uncovered, a covers collection featuring songs by Joy Division, Madonna, Front 242, Michael Jackson, Nine Inch Nails, and Tori Amos.

## **Mars Wants Our Genitals**

*Sacramento*

Humanity has often been described as exogamous -- if it's strange, and new, we want to have sex with it. This was simple enough when it was the people from the group down the river who spoke strangely -- but what will it mean as we move out into the universe? Writers have already gone there -- James Tiptree Jr.'s "And I Awoke And Found Me Here By The Cold Hill's Side", for example. How will we relate to a universe whose expectations of sex (if they exist at all) may be very, very different from ours?

*Moderator: Shannon Prickett*

*Panelists: Mary Anne Mohanraj, Steven Schwartz, David Levine,  
Jean Marie Stine*



## **FOGcon 2**

### **Readings: Broad Universe Rapid-Fire Reading**

*Santa Rosa*

### **Open Filk**

*San Jose*

**Saturday, March 31**

9:00-10:15 A.M.

### **What I Reread and Why**

*Salon B/C*

When many readers start slipping into depression, we compulsively re-read a set of books and series that comfort us. For example, each of these books/series may have a strong female protagonist who, after being misunderstood or rejected by her birth family, goes on to create a new family that understands. Do other people find themselves re-reading certain books or series under specific conditions? What books? What do we gain by this re-reading? Is it different than random re-reading? More generally, what books, or types of books, do we re-read? Are there books that you really enjoyed that you will never again pick up? What do we gain by revisiting a story when we already know the plot?

*Moderator: Lynn Kendall*

*Panelists: Anaea Lay, Jackie Gross, Andrew Clark*

### **Readings: Alyc Helms, Andrea Blythe, Norm Sperling**

*Santa Rosa*

10:30-11:45 A.M.

### **Gray is the New Purple**

*Salon B/C*

Aging isn't for the weak of heart. What sf/f works deal with the topic of aging, either positively or negatively? Who gets it right and who should do some homework?

*Moderator: Madeleine Robins*

*Panelists: Phyllis Holliday, Oyceter, Erin Hoffman*

### **Best Alien Ever**

*Salon A*

Some aliens are just humans with funny foreheads. But sometimes an author creates an alien that stretches your mind or makes you see ordinary humans in a whole different

light. What makes for an alien species worth reading about? What are the most extraordinary aliens authors have successfully portrayed?

*Moderator: Theresa Mecklenborg*

*Panelists: Chaz Brenchley, Juliette Wade, Ann Wilkes*

## Who Are You?

*Sacramento*

Exactly what is a body? Is it just the usual two arms and two legs? How does how we look or how we are shaped affect what we think of as us? Does a wheelchair become part of a person over time? Let's also discuss cybernetics, and their integration with a person's self-image.

*Moderator: Betsy Lundsten*

*Panelists: Courtney Eckhardt, Guy W. Thomas, Anaea Lay*

## Readings: John Joseph Adams, Keffy R. M. Kehrli, Gary Kloster

*Santa Rosa*

11:45-1:30 P.M.

## Writer's Workshop

*Locations provided for registered participants*

Professional writers do round-robin critiques with aspiring writers. You must have pre-registered to attend this event.

1:30-2:45 P.M.

## Nalo Hopkinson Honored Guest Presentation

*Salon B/C*

It wasn't until Nalo moved to North America as an adult that she began to hear people saying wistfully, "But I have no culture." And yet, human beings make their own cultures and sub-cultures, beginning in childhood. Children everywhere build bonds with each other by accessing and re-enacting shared libraries of movement, rhythm and chants that are mysteriously passed down from generation to generation and across borders of time and space. The skipping games, ring games and other types of repetitive movement/rhythm games we played as children stay with us for decades. Say the words "Mother, May I?" or "Brown Girl in the Ring" in the right places, and chances are you'll find scores of people of all ages willing and eager to teach you how to play the game. So; what movement/rhythm games did you play as a child? What types of games do we have in common? What can we learn about each other as we teach each other our childhood games? Join Nalo Hopkinson and award-winning children's writer Ellen Klages (and their respective toy boxes) so that we can all share an active 70 minutes of serious fun. Expect clapping, chanting, dashing about, and general silliness.

*Presenters: Nalo Hopkinson, Ellen Klages*



## FOGcon 2

### Did Everyone Fail High School Biology or What?

*Salon A*

From stupid stunts with DNA to implausible ecologies, lots of science fiction just gets biology wrong. Why is this? What are examples of books, movies, or TV that gets it right?

*Moderator: Theresa Mecklenborg*

*Panelists: Tari, Wendy Shaffer, Cassie Alexander, Pat Murphy*

### I Made My Best Friend of Clay

*Sacramento*

The Golem -- formed of clay, brought to a semblance of life by letters inscribed upon its forehead, incapable of speech -- is a mythic archetype from the Talmudic tradition. The tales about the Golem speak to the treatment of those unable to reason clearly for themselves, the responsibilities of those who would create life, and the risks and consequences of unintended experimentation and hubris. These are all themes both relevant to the world today, and to the genres which we read.

*Moderator: Carol Dorf*

*Panelists: Yonatan Zunger, Carolyn Cooper, Andrew Clark, Darrin Barnett*

### Readings: Ann Wilkes, Leigh Anne Lindsey, Shannon Page

*Santa Rosa*

3:00-4:15 P.M.

### Occupy SF/F

*Salon B/C*

What's happening with the Occupy movement? What started it and why does it matter? Let's discuss what happened in Oakland, what effects the movement is having on the world, and whether and how science fiction and fantasy relate to what we're seeing.

*Moderator: Debbie Notkin*

*Panelists: Alex Gurevitch, Naamen Tilahun, Nick Mamatas, Steve Boyett*

### What Authors Can Learn From Indie Musicians (presentation)

*Salon A*

It seems that writing has just caught up to where music has been for the last 10 years. Print on demand, eBooks, and the means of reaching a worldwide audience are within every writer's reach. We've entered a world where publishers are an option, not a necessity--and publishers are increasingly reluctant to break new authors. A successful indie musician explains why this has made going independent the best option to begin a career.

*Presenter: Randy Chertkow*

## **Look, Mom, I'm a Unicorn!**

*Sacramento*

Shapechangers have been beloved in stories and mythology since the dawn of the human race. The idea of shifting into another body opens a ton of questions about identity and self-perception. What are some of the best examples in fiction of shapechangers? What can go terribly wrong with shapechanging? What happens when there are no limits?

*Moderator: Daniel Starr*

*Panelists: Valerie Frankel, Courtney, Guy W. Thomas, Christie Yant*

## **Readings: Madeleine Robins, Ivy Blaine, Greer Woodward**

*Santa Rosa*

4:30-5:45 P.M.

## **Shelley Jackson Sends Her *Skin***

*Salon B/C*

Honored guest Shelley Jackson cannot be with us in person, but she has sent us her *Skin*, a short film that is not quite a documentary, about the Skin project, in which each of 2,000 participants had one word of a short story tattooed on their body. We will show the video, and following that, there will be a moderator-led discussion of the video, the project as a whole, and the rest of her body of work.

*Moderator: Steven Schwartz*

## **Where Have All the Extrasensory Powers Gone?**

*Salon A*

ESP was a mainstay of science fiction, but is long out of fashion. Was that just a matter of continued disproof? How likely is it to come back?

*Moderator: Jed Hartman*

*Panelists: Suzanne Moses, Shannon Page, Alan Bostick*

## **You Are Not Your Rejection Slips**

*Sacramento*

Learn techniques for coping with the inevitable ups and downs of a writing career. How can you maintain a sense of self-worth after a hundred rejection slips? How do you handle the feelings of being simultaneously the most brilliant writer ever and the biggest pile of s\*\*\* in the field?

*Moderator: Cassie Alexander*

*Panelists: Andrea Blythe, Gabrielle Harbowy, John Joseph Adams, Christie Yant*

## **Readings: Liz Henry, Anaea Lay, Julia Dvorin**

*Santa Rosa*



## **FOGcon 2**

8:00-9:15 P.M.

### **Ask a Pro**

*Salon B/C*

Ask a professional writer anything you like about craft, business, or whatever you want to know.

*Moderator: David Levine*

*Panelists: Nalo Hopkinson, Rachel Swirsky, Jean Marie Stine, Nick Mamatas*

*"The human body is not a thing or substance, given, but a continuous creation. The human body is an energy system which is never a complete structure; never static; is in perpetual inner self-construction and self-destruction; we destroy in order to make it new." -- Norman O. Brown*

### **Body Image 201**

*Salon A*

Body image is often used as a replacement term for "how I feel about my weight," but a great many more factors impact body image: gender (of course), but also race, height, ethnicity, age, level of fitness, and more. Let's discuss how these factors affect one another, and what's involved in examining and enriching the conversation around body image.

*Moderator: Debbie Notkin*

*Panelists: Laurie Toby Edison, Keffy R. M. Kehrl, Aaron Spielman*

### **Roll 1d6 on the Plot Hooks Table**

*Sacramento*

Role-playing games have been around since the mid-70s, and many of today's authors have grown up playing them; Charles Stross and China Miéville have both cited their debt to the field. How have games helped and/or hurt your writing? What are things you can learn from them, and what things should you most definitely *avoid* learning from them?

*Moderator: Jed Hartman*

*Panelists: Steven Schwartz, Gary Kloster, Alec Austin, Alyc Helms*

### **Readings: Steve Boyett, Juliette Wade, Marie Brennan**

*Santa Rosa*

9:30-10:45 P.M.

### **Karaoke**

*Salon B/C*

As befits a convention where the members suggest the panels, and are on the panels, now you get to be each other's musical entertainment as well! Last year the Karaoke singers had a great time, so come and show us what you've got!

*Facilitator: Bruce Rogers*

**Our Monsters, Ourselves***Sacramento*

Vampires in modern urban fantasy seem to reflect contemporary Western bodily obsessions: they're all thin, pale, good-looking, and we never see them eat solid food. Zombies, on the other hand, seem to reflect a different set of body anxieties. What do the monsters in our contemporary fiction say about how we think about our bodies?

*Moderator: Eric Zuckerman**Panelists: Lori Selke, Jay Ridler, Ann Wilkes***Readings (explicit content): Steven Schwartz, Lorelei Powers, M. Christian***Santa Rosa***Open Filk** *San Jose*

<b>Sunday, April 1</b>
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9:00-10:15 A.M.**Loving Something Problematic***Salon B/C*

Most of us have at least a few books, movies, or TV shows that we love that are also problematic in their depiction of race, gender, class, or something else. How can we be fans of these things while still acknowledging their flaws? How can we discuss the flaws in these works without incurring the wrath of devoted fans?

*Moderator: Liz Argall**Panelists: M. Christian, Andrea Blythe, Carolyn Cooper, Nalo Hopkinson*10:30-11:45 A.M.**Anthology Pitch-a-Thon***Salon B/C*

Editors with anthologies will sit on the panel, and describe their books-to-be, along with the hopes and fears of the slush pile; the audience will bounce ideas off the editors, ask questions, and learn about how each panelist makes their selections.

*Moderator: Lori Selke**Panelists: Marty Halpern, Jean Marie Stine, John Joseph Adams*



## **FOGcon 2**

### **Back in the Good Old Days**

*Salon A*

Many newer fans don't realize how much fandom has changed over time. Learn from the folks who've been there--what was different in the 50's? How about the 60's and 70's? Learn how fans connected in the pre-internet days and how they shaped their identities in a time when fandom was much smaller.

*Moderator: Michele Cox*

*Panelists: Jackie Gross, Lenny Bailes, Lisa Harrigan, Gary Farber*

### **Make Your Reading a Performance**

*Sacramento*

Tips for writers on how to give a successful reading. Participatory! Read nursery rhymes as eulogies, candidate speeches, weather reports, etc. -- work on eye contact, voice modulation and inflection, etc. without worrying about also reading unfamiliar text. Have fun with it!

*Moderator: Mickey Phoenix*

*Panelists: Juliette Wade, Madeleine Robins, Greer Woodward, Ann Wilkes*

### **Honored Guest Readings: Shelley Jackson by video, Nalo Hopkinson**

*Santa Rosa*

1:30-2:45 P.M.

### **Let's Design Some Aliens**

*Salon B/C*

The audience will design three separate alien species, with gentle guidance from the panelists to help keep them semi-plausible.

*Moderator: Vylar Kaftan*

*Panelists: Erin Hoffman, Juliette Wade, Phyllis Holliday*

### **Bodies on the Line**

*Salon A*

Soldiers, sex workers, models, circus performers, dancers, athletes: all work in professions where the body in space is the primary instrument, place of value and risk. How is your life different when your body is your primary instrument? How does society value and mythologize the different modes of body work, and how do the practitioners see it? How do activities shape bodies and people's relationship to their body?

*Moderator: Jaym Gates*

*Panelists: Elsa Hermens, Courtney Eckhardt, Darrin Barnett*

*"Make your feet your friend" - J.M. Barrie*

## **Mutations, Their Gifts and Their Betrayals: Embodiment in the World(s) of the X-Men**

*Sacramento*

The X-men universe shows us mutants whose powers range from the intimacy of telepathic control of others' bodies (Professor X, Jean Grey) to the distance and isolation of powers which are always dangerous (Cyclops, Rogue). Issues of bodily manipulation through alteration (Wolverine), the use of power upon individuals (Magneto's control of metal, even within the body), and body-change when exercising a mutant power are also at play. Additionally, the X-men universe deals with individuals who are considered a separate (sub)species from *Homo sapiens*: their bodies are irreconcilably distinct from general humanity. What does the X-men canon teach us about what it means to be embodied?

*Moderator: Ian Hagemann*

*Panelists: Katie Sparrow, Marie Brennan, Naamen Tilahun*

## **Readings: Daniel Marcus, David Levine, Chaz Brenchley**

*Santa Rosa*

3:00-4:15 P.M.

## **Post Mortem**

*Salon B/C*

Come and tell us what you loved, what you hated, what could be improved, and share with us your stories about this year and ideas for future years!

*Moderator: Vylar Kaftan, with whoever of the ConCom is still functional*

*"A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history." -- Mahatma Gandhi*

## **Program Participants**

**John Joseph Adams**—called “the reigning king of the anthology world” by Barnes & Noble.com—is the bestselling editor of many anthologies, such as *Under the Moons of Mars: New Adventures on Barsoom*, *Armored*, *Brave New Worlds*, *Wastelands*, *The Living Dead*, *The Living Dead 2*, *By Blood We Live*, *Federations*, *The Improbable Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, and *The Way of the Wizard*. He is a two-time finalist for the Hugo Award and a three-time finalist for the World Fantasy Award. He is also the editor and publisher of *Lightspeed Magazine*, and is the co-host of Wired.com’s *The Geek’s Guide to the Galaxy* podcast.

**Cassie Alexander** is a registered nurse and author of the Nightshifted trilogy, coming out from St. Martin’s Press in May 2012.

**Liz Argall**’s work has been published in a range of journals and anthologies including *The Pedestal Magazine*, *Anywhere But Earth* and *Strange Horizons*.



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Her previous incarnations include circus manager, refuge worker, union organizer, research officer for the Order of Australia Awards, and extensive work in the not-for-profit sector. These days she is a freelance writer, and has been an artists' model since she was 18... she hopes to still be an artist's model when she's 80 and has fabulous wrinkles to draw. <http://lizargall.com/>

**Alec Austin** is a game designer, media scholar, and short fiction author. His fiction has been published in *Daily SF*, and he has stories forthcoming from *Apex*, *Daily SF*, and *Andromeda Spaceways*. His D&D work has been featured in *Dungeon* magazine, and he was the AI designer on *Command & Conquer 4* and Lead Designer of the Pokemon TCG Online.

**Lenny Bailes** has been involved with science fiction and SF fandom for 35 years as a fanzine writer, SF critic, convention goer, and online participant. He's been a program director and panel ringleader for Potlatch and occasionally agitates on Worldcon programming braintrusts. His printable thoughts on sfnal subjects occasionally appear on Tor.com. Lenny has parallel careers as a computer instructor and IT professional, having written a number of computer self-help books, and having also been a high school math teacher. He still publishes paper fanzines once in awhile and enjoys providing harmonica & rhythm accompaniment in late night music jams.

**Darrin Barnett** is not on the convention committee, but two of his co-workers are, so he was doomed from the start. When he's not working in the tech industry with other science fiction fans and gamers, he teaches fencing in Oakland.

**Ivy Blaine** is a second year MFA student with an emphasis in fiction at Mills College and the winner of the first FOGcon short story contest. She says: "Influenced by everything I read from Poe and Hemingway to Margaret Atwood and China Miéville. Grateful to my parents for their constant encouragement, particularly my dad for introducing me to Isaac Asimov's *Foundation* without which my story, "Skinned," would never have been written." Devoted to writing speculative fiction, scifi and horror fan, yoga enthusiast..

**Andrea Blythe** graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a BA in Modern Literature. She lives in Los Gatos, California, where she writes poetry and fiction. Her poetry has appeared in several publications, including *Chiaroscuro (ChiZine)*, *Strange Horizons*, *Perigee*, *Z-composition*, *Bear Creek Haiku*, and *Chinquapin*. Visit her website at [www.andreablythe.com](http://www.andreablythe.com).

**Chris Boros** attended FOGcon last year and moved to the Bay Area shortly afterward. It cannot be confirmed that the two events are related. He likes computers and Arkham Horror.

**Alan Bostick** has been by turns a physicist, editor, baker, poker pro, writer, and chocolatier. Equally at home in the salon privée of a Las Vegas casino resort and the slums of Haiti, Bostick is the very model of a real-life Heinlein protagonist. Ask him about exploring the ruins of ancient civilizations, probing the secrets of gravity with laser light, or working with the vexing polymorphous crystalline structure of cocoa butter.



**Steven R. Boyett** ([www.steveboy.com](http://www.steveboy.com)) is the author of *Ariel* ([www.arielbook.com](http://www.arielbook.com)), *Elegy Beach* ([www.elegybeach.com](http://www.elegybeach.com)), and *Mortality Bridge* ([www.mortalitybridge.com](http://www.mortalitybridge.com)), in addition to other novels, short stories, screenplays, and comic books. As a public speaker he has earned acclaim for his fiction classes, New Media lectures, and readings. He is also a well-known electronic dance music DJ ([www.podrunner.com](http://www.podrunner.com)) who has played at clubs, conventions, and Burning Man, and he produces three of the world's most popular music podcasts, Podrunner, Podrunner: Intervals, and Groovelectric. Boyett has been a professional martial arts instructor, paper marbler, proofreader, advertising copywriter, composer, chapbook publisher, website designer, and didgeridoo player.

**Chaz Brenchley** (who also writes as Daniel Fox and Ben Macallan) has been making a living as a writer since he was eighteen. He is the author of three major fantasy series: *The Books of Outremer*, based on the world of the Crusades, *Selling Water by the River*, set in an alternate Ottoman Istanbul and *Moshui*, *the Books of Stone and Water*, an epic woven of Chinese myths and legends. He has published nine thrillers, including *Dead of Light* and *Light Errant*, for which he won the British Fantasy Award. He has also published three children's books and more than 500 short stories in various genres. His time as Crimewriter-in-Residence at the St Peter's Riverside Sculpture Project in Sunderland resulted in the collection *Blood Waters*. He is a prizewinning ex-poet, and has been writer in residence at the University of Northumbria, as well as tutoring their MA in Creative Writing. He was Northern Writer of the Year 2000, and lives in Newcastle upon Tyne with two squabbling cats and a famous teddy bear.

**Marie Brennan** is the author of the Onyx Court series of London-based historical faerie fantasies: *Midnight Never Come*, *In Ashes Lie*, *A Star Shall Fall*, and *With Fate Conspire*. . She has published more than thirty short stories in venues such as *On Spec*, *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, and the acclaimed anthology series *Clockwork Phoenix*. More information can be found on her website: [www.swantower.com](http://www.swantower.com).

**M. Christian** is the internationally renowned author of 400 stories in such anthologies and publications as *Talebones*, *Space & Time Magazine*, *Skull Full Of Spurs*, *Graven Images*, *Horror Garage*, *Song of Cthulhu*, and many others. He is the author of the collections *Love Without Gun Control*, *Dirty Words*, *Speaking Parts*, *The Bachelor Machine*, *Licks & Promises*, *Filthy*, *Rude Mechanicals*, and *Coming Together Presents M.Christian*; the novels *Running Dry*, *The Very Bloody Marys*, *Me2*, *Brushes*, and *Painted Doll*; and the editor of over 25 anthologies, including *Guilty Pleasures*, *The Mammoth Book of Future Cops* and *The Mammoth Book of Tales of the Road* (with Maxim Jakubowski), and *Confessions*, *Garden of Perverse*, and *Amazons* (with Sage Vivant). His Web site is [www.mchristian.com](http://www.mchristian.com).

**Andrew Clark** has yet to be thrown out of fandom for some years now. At the tender age of 16 he was stuck all night in a BayCon elevator with Klingons and a Cylon, armed only with a traumatized Tribble to hide under. This may have



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caused his soft spot for red shirts. His interests have always included information technology, social control and the quaint concept of Constitutional rights and law. Due to recent changes in the job market, his master's in Social Ecology no longer qualifies him to serve lattes. Instead, he does training and quality assurance for a large services firm (or pushes baby chicks into alligator ponds, take your pick). Author favorites include Robert A. Heinlein, Lois McMaster Bujold, C.J. Cherryh, Spider Robinson and when he thinks no one is looking, just about everything from Baen Books past and present including "Oh John Ringo No!" Whoops.

**Michele Cox** found fandom in her teens and never left. Since then she has earned an MA in Church History and Theology, become a poet, and taught herself technical writing and business analysis by observation and practice. She is a polytheistic pan(en)theistic mystic working in web security. Among her favorite SFF authors are Madeleine L'Engle, Lois McMaster Bujold, and M. K. Wren. She is celebrating her fiftieth birthday at the convention.

**Carolyn E. Cooper** currently teaches various areas of online marketing and the changing business model for Peninsula College in Washington and various online workshops for authors. She has been an active member of fandom since 1973 (she even remembers when we were all one fandom) and maintained an AB Dick printer in my breakfast nook for publishing fanzines and 8 VCRs for creating "fan music videos" so she's chronologically old, but works hard to keep the mind young and flexible.

**Courtney** is a fat woman who spends all of her free time thinking about body politics, feminism, social justice, intersectionality, technology, and crafts. Occasionally she's well enough to blog about them. She's the pain in the ass who calls coworkers out for rape jokes and racism and knits during meetings. At the drop of a hat, she can rant about social trends in the foodie revolution, clothing sizes, and crafts; the internet, its technical underpinnings and its social implications, and the extra perceptual dimensions granted by a smartphone.

**Em Creek** is a fan, reader, writer, and occasional metacommenter who started lurking in online fandom in 2003 and became a more active participant in 2008. She enjoys engaging transformatively with source texts and believes that criticism of and love for a source are both essential.

**Carol Dorf's** poems have appeared in *Illumen*, *Silver Blade*, *Unlikely Stories*, *The Prose Poem Project*, *Sin Fronteras*, *Spillway*, *Hip Mama: The Parenting Zine*, *The Mom Egg*, *In Posse Review*, *Moir*, *Feminist Studies*, *Heresies*, *Fringe*, *The Midway*, *Poemeleon*, *Runes*, and *13th Moon*. They have been anthologized in *Not a Muse*, *Boomer Girls*, and elsewhere. She is poetry editor of *Talking Writing*, teaches math, and reviews science fiction. Her music/poetry collaboration was performed at Mythos Gallery, and at the Berkeley Arts Festival. Long, long, ago she was one of the Clarion West shape shifters.

**Julia Dvorin** is a woman of many hats and little sleep, who tells stories wherever she can. A proud graduate of the Viable Paradise SF/F workshop, she fits her writing (and reading) in while parenting two young boys and promoting a collaborative art project called "Fly Your Freak Flag High" (FYFFH). Julia holds



an MA in Sociology from UCSB and has been a lecturer in Sociology and Women's Studies. She has also worked in consumer products licensing, sales and web design. In 2010, Julia's novelette "Cupid For a Day" was published in the *Renaissance Festival Tales* anthology from Hadley Rille Books, which will also be publishing her forthcoming fantasy adventure novel, *Ice Will Reveal*, in early 2013. Find out more about Julia on her website: [www.parentheticals.com](http://www.parentheticals.com).

**Laurie Toby Edison** is a metalworker, jeweler, and photographer who has been providing art to science fiction fandom and the wider world for several decades. Her portrait photographs have been exhibited around the United States and around the world, including a solo show of 100 photographs at the Japanese National Museum of Art in Osaka. With Debbie Notkin, she has published two books of her nude portraits—*Women En Large: Images of Fat Nudes* and *Familiar Men: A Book of Nudes*. She and Debbie, and several guest bloggers write about body image at Body Impolitic ([www.laurietobyedison.com/discuss](http://www.laurietobyedison.com/discuss)).

**Lisa Eckstein** blogs about reading, writing, and revising at [lisaeckstein.com](http://lisaeckstein.com).

**Gary Farber** has been active in the sf community since 1971 at age 12. He began working in sf in 1974 at *Amazing Stories/Fantastic Stories*; former freelance & inhouse reader, proofreader, copyeditor, copywriter & dogsbody for publishers including Dell, Tor, Ace/Berkeley, Avon, Baen, Penguin, Warner, Bluejay, Scholastic, Teen Beat, SFBC. He blogs at Obsidian Wings, and at Amygdala since 12/2001, adoring the interwebtubes since 1977/1995. He is a lifelong leftwing commie Muslim Jewish terrorist activist, former delegate to county Democratic Conventions, precinct wardheeler and delegate to Colorado State Dem. party convention & assembly, he remains an outside agitator. Former staffer at Science Fiction Chronicle, Pacific Northwest Review of Books & junior editor at Avon Books. Past Vice-Chair & Director of Operations at Worldcons. Expert on sf fan history, onetime fanzine fan, he created the first convention displays on sf fanhistory in 1975, the Worldcon Fanhistory Display, "fan programming" tracks & the first regional & Worldcon "fan lounges" in 1975 & 1977. He would likely enjoy meeting you.

**Eva Folsom** is a former technical writer who is training to become a certified Waldorf teacher. She attributes her combination of geekiness and earth-mother sensibility to her Northern California upbringing, though she hails from Nevada these days. She has been a devoted sff reader since Vonda McIntyre's *Dreamsnake* changed her life in the fourth grade. She is the author of a bunch of short story manuscripts that are slowly and painfully approaching "interesting to other people." Of course, her spouse and parents find them already fascinating and brilliant.

**Valerie Estelle Frankel** is the author of *From Girl to Goddess: The Heroine's Journey in Myth and Legend* and *Buffy and the Heroine's Journey* (McFarland 2010, 2012). Her projects on fandom, called "Harry Potter: Still Recruiting" and "Teaching with Harry Potter" will be coming in 2012. Her shorter works have appeared in over 100 anthologies and journals including *Inside Joss' Dollhouse*, *Illuminating Torchwood*, and *Rosebud Magazine*. Her parody, *Henry Potty and the Pet Rock*, was winner of the Indie Excellence Award and was a USA Book



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News National Best Book. Once a lecturer at San Jose State University, she's a frequent speaker on fantasy, myth, pop culture, and the heroine's journey, with many fans of all ages. Come explore her latest research at [www.vefrankel.com](http://www.vefrankel.com).

**Jaym Gates** started out as a password and formatting-challenged intern at *Fantasy Magazine*. Since then, she's edited anthologies on such high-brow topics as zombie erotica, written about mechanical dragons and galaxy-eating horrors, managed fetish shows and blogged all over the place. Hey, she'll never lack for good stories at conventions. More about this entertaining resume can be found at [jaymgates.com](http://jaymgates.com).

**Jackie Gross** is a media sf/f fan who lives with her partner, Shirley, in Oakland, California. Her book reviews, interviews and articles have appeared in a variety of women's publications and nonfiction journals, including the *WisCon Chronicles*. Jackie was a member of the BASCon (Bay Area Slash Convention) Con Committee during the convention's eleven-year run and currently works with Holzheimer's Distribution as a convention booth coordinator. Her goal as an up-and-coming welding student is to eventually build a siege engine in her backyard.

**Alex Gurevich** has been an avid reader (and writer inside his head) of speculative fiction all his life. He received a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Chicago. He worked for a time on Wall Street. Now he enjoys a calmer life in Sausalito, California, where he dabbles in writing High Fantasy.

**Ian K. Hagemann** is a mixed-race SF fan from Seattle who helped found Potlatch and the Carl Brandon Society, and currently works as a computer consultant. He has been an activist in various movements including the adoption movement and the movement to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, and is currently a Leader in Training with the ManKind Project.

**Marty Halpern** is a two-time finalist for the World Fantasy Award—Professional for his work with Golden Gryphon Press, from 1999 through 2007. Marty now freelances, working directly with authors to prepare their manuscripts for publication, as well as working primarily for independent publishers Night Shade Books and Tachyon Publications, and other publishers including Ace Books and Morrigan Books UK. Marty has written a series of columns entitled "The Perfect Sentence," published in *The Valley Scribe*, the newsletter of the San Fernando Valley Chapter of the California Writers Club. He was a guest faculty member at the 2004 East of Eden Writers Conference in Salinas, California. He currently resides in San Jose, California, and occasionally emerges from his inner sanctum to attend conventions. Blog "More Red Ink": [martyhalpern.blogspot.com](http://martyhalpern.blogspot.com); SF Editors Wiki entry: [sfeditorwatch.com/index.php/Marty\\_Halpern](http://sfeditorwatch.com/index.php/Marty_Halpern).

**Gabrielle Harbowy** is a San Francisco-based editor and writer of fantasy and science fiction. She copyedits for Pyr and Seven Realms Publishing, and is Managing Editor at Dragon Moon Press. She has copyedited for New York Times Bestsellers and Hugo Award winners, and has acquired books that have gone on to become finalists and winners of ForeWord Magazine's Book of the Year, the Prix Aurora, and the Bram Stoker Award. As a writer, her short fiction



appears in print and podcast anthologies. Her anthology *When the Hero Comes Home* (with Ed Greenwood) is available from Dragon Moon Press. (www.gabrielle-edits.com)

**Lisa Deutsch Harrigan** - aka Auntie M. Treasurer of The Mythopoeic Society and San Francisco Science Fiction Conventions; Chairman of Westercon 40, Chairman of Mythcon 10, treasurer to more Mythcons, treasurer to Westercon 64 and Westercon 66; treasurer to CostumeCon 26, good costumer too (mostly hall costumes). She can usually be found at the fan tables selling a convention. Been in fandom for -- well more years than she wants to imagine. A well-rounded fan into books and media, including (but not limited to) costuming, J.R.R. Tolkien, LotR the Movie, fantasy, Asimov, Bradbury, SF, Star Trek, Star Wars, Babylon 5, Farscape, Warehouse 13, Eureka. Wife of Harold Harrigan. Mother to Jenevieve Paurel Davis, and Harold Harrigan III; grandma to Christopher, Matthew, and Jonathan: all fans, too. And remember she is always 42. And ask for her "Definitely Not in Kansas" ribbon.

**Jed Hartman** is a fiction editor for *Strange Horizons*. His fiction and nonfiction have appeared in *Clean Sheets*, *Wet*, *Strange Horizons*, *Flytrap*, *Fishnet*, and *All-Star Zeppelin Adventure Stories*. For more about him (or to read his blog), see his website: <http://www.kith.org/logos>.

**Alyc Helms** did her graduate work in anthropology and folklore, which makes her useless for just about anything except writing. She lives and writes in a dilapidated beach bungalow outside of San Francisco, near a horse trail, a troll bridge, and a raptor preserve (hopefully, the veloci- variety). She works as a content coordinator in economics and biology for an academic press, and she edits novels in a freelance capacity. She writes what she likes to call 'critical theory fanfic', which allows her to explore my obsessions with liminality, gender, and foxes. Her short fiction has appeared in *Daily SF*. She can be found online at [www.teleidoplex.com](http://www.teleidoplex.com).

**Liz Henry** is a poet, translator, and editor as well as a computer geek and web developer. Her new book of poems, *Unruly Islands*, has just been published by Aqueduct Press.

With a B.A. in British and American Literature, half-dozen Addiction Studies classes, and certification from the Academy of Chinese Culture and Health Science in Tui Na, **Elsa Hermens** is fairly sure that she is totally unqualified in regards to formal education for her current job in workers' compensation for the city of Oakland. She is keenly interested in queer, racial, feminist, Marxist, and post-colonial criticism, particularly when crossed with each other and/or a new historical approach, and wonders if "known to say 'fuck' a lot" is an inappropriate way to end her bio.

**Erin Hoffman** (Richmond, CA) is a professional video game designer and the author of the Chaos Knight series from Pyr Books. Her short fiction and poetry have appeared in *Electric Velocipede*, *Asimov's*, *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, and elsewhere, and her second novel, *Lance of Earth and Sky*, is forthcoming from Pyr Books in April 2012. She has been designing video games for over a decade in a variety of formats, and is an accomplished advocate for player rights,



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women in video games, video game ethics, and work/life balance in the game development industry. Her game industry essays can be found in *Best Software Writing 1*, *Ethics and Game Design*, and *The Escapist*, and her website with more information is available at [www.erinhoffman.com](http://www.erinhoffman.com). She is very friendly and hopes you will say hello.

**Phyllis Holliday:** Writer, Poet, Performer. She writes fables, and has just finished an epic novel, *Fairy Country*. \* Pitch™ An 1870's American Cinderella marries the wrong prince, and tries to escape with her little daughter using her talent for photographing fairies. \* She has stories and poems published in the last century, in mostly small literary magazines, including one story and poems on the Abalone Moon site, and others scattered on the net. Part of Circo Poetica, one show event, with acrobats and poets. Was amazed to be one of the six writers to win a copy of Theodora Goss's new novel in her giveaway contest. Her life philosophy is to behave as if we are in a fairy tale."

**Andrea Horbinski** is a graduate student in Japanese history at UC Berkeley, where her research focuses on manga and comparative empires. She has modded panels on anime, manga, and SFF at cons including Otakon, WisCon, and Con.Txt, and has presented on similar topics at numerous academic conferences. In her copious spare time, she writes for the Symposium blog of the Transformative Works and Cultures journal and is the 2012 Chair of the Organization for Transformative Works' Internationalization & Outreach committee.

**Bill Humphries** makes user interfaces for web apps on browsers, smartphones, and televisions, and has also wrangled large software projects. Has strong feelings about privacy, identity, and anonymity. Knows a thing or two about virtual worlds.

**Emily Jiang** is a graduate of the Clarion Writer's Workshop and has an MFA in Creative Writing from Saint Mary's College of California. Her poetry has been published in *Stone Telling* and *Strange Horizons*, and her fiction has won several literary contests, including the John Reid/Tom Howard Short Story Contest and The Binnacle's Ultra-Short Competition. She wrestles with words every day. Sometimes she wins. Most times it's a draw.

**Vylar Kaftan** writes speculative fiction of all genres, including science fiction, fantasy, horror, and slipstream. She was nominated for a 2010 Nebula Award for her short story "I'm Alive, I Love You, I'll See You in Reno." Her stories have appeared in *Lightspeed*, *Strange Horizons*, *ChiZine*, and *Clarkesworld*. Her work has been reprinted in *Horror: The Best of the Year*, honorably mentioned in *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror*, and shortlisted for the WSFA Small Press Award. A graduate of Clarion West, she's volunteered for that group as well as the Little Owls mentoring program for young writers. She's a member of SFWA, Codex, Broad Universe, and the Carl Brandon Society. She lives with her husband Shannon in northern California. Her hobbies include modern-day temple dancing and preparing for a major earthquake. Her favorite color is all of them. She prefers the term "differently sane."



**Keffy R. M. Kehrli** is a speculative fiction writer currently living in Seattle. He attended Clarion UCSD in 2008. His fiction has appeared in *Fantasy Magazine*, *Electric Velocipede*, and *Writers of the Future Vol. 27*. More information can be found on his website at <http://www.keffy.com>

**Lynn Kendall** is a professional writer and editor. She lives with her chosen family in the Bay Area in a house where the cat-to-lap ratio is greater than 1 and the book-to-cat ratio is thousands to one.

**Ellen Klages** is not Nalo Hopkinson, though people get confused sometimes. When she's not in disguise as Nalo, she writes science fiction, fantasy, and middle-grade fiction, including the widely acclaimed *The Green Glass Sea* and sequel *White Sands, Red Menace*. Her short fiction has appeared in science fiction and fantasy anthologies and magazines, both online and in print, including *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, *Black Gate*, and *Firebirds Rising*. Her story, "Basement Magic," won the Best Novelette Nebula Award in 2005. She has also written four books of hands-on science activities for children (with Pat Murphy, et al.) for the Exploratorium museum in San Francisco. In addition to her writing, she serves on the Motherboard of the James Tiptree, Jr. Award, and is somewhat notorious as the auctioneer/entertainment for the Tiptree auctions at WisCon. Her house is full of odd, old toys.

**Gary Kloster** is a writer, stay-at-home father, martial artist and librarian. Sometimes all in the same day, but almost never all at the same time. He lives in central Illinois with his wife and two daughters.

**Anaea Lay** lives in Madison, Wisconsin where she eats too much, sleeps too little, and spoils her cat. She is definitely not obsessed with cities, psychopaths or parrots, but she can go on at embarrassing length about Dr. Who. Her short stories creep up in various places including Apex Magazine and she blogs at [anaealay.wordpress.com](http://anaealay.wordpress.com).

**David D. Levine** is a writer of science fiction and fantasy short stories. He has won the Hugo Award, Endeavour Award, and James White Award and has been nominated or shortlisted for the Nebula, John W. Campbell, and many others. His stories can be found in all the major markets, including *Asimov's*, *Analog*, *F&SF*, and *Realms of Fantasy*, as well as anthologies including four Year's Best volumes. He lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife Kate Yule, where they produce the fanzine *Bento*. Their website can be found at [bentopress.com](http://bentopress.com).

**Leigh Anne Lindsey** is a writer of futuristic fiction & thrillers. She is an indie publisher (SeaStorm Press) of sf/f in the form of ebooks & audio/video (audiobooks to video interviews & book trailers for publication on places such as websites, Amazon Author Central & YouTube.) SeaStorm Press is based in the San Francisco North Bay Area and has published 2 ebooks, an audiobook, several websites and video productions (<http://SeaStormPress.com>.) Lindsey belongs to the Bay Area Indie Publisher Assoc, the Bay Area Bloggers Assoc, & the California Writers Club (Redwood Writers.) She helped market and co-found



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tech companies from Europe and the United States for over 18 years in Silicon Valley. Prior to working in the tech industry, Lindsey was a rock radio jock & radio commercials producer at KSPN-FM, Aspen, CO. She enjoys riding horses, walking, gardening, and camping. A former downhill skier, horse trainer, private pilot and scuba diver, she lives with her three cats and Russian Wolfhound.

**Betsy Lundsten** lives in Minnesota with two dogs and her partner. She works on WisCon, Minicon, and occasionally a few other things. Ask her how waiting for Godot is going, if you have a spare hour.

**Nick Mamatas** is the author of four novels, including *Sensation* and (with Brian Keene) *The Damned Highway*, and over eighty short stories and a couple hundred feature articles and essays. As an editor, he co-edited *Clarkesworld Magazine*; co-edited the Bram-Stoker-award-winning anthology *Haunted Legends* with Ellen Datlow; and now edits Haikasoru, an imprint dedicated to Japanese SF and fantasy in translation. His fiction and editorial work has been variously nominated for the Hugo, World Fantasy, Bram Stoker, Shirley Jackson, and International Horror Guild awards. 2012 will see the release of his latest novel, *Bullettime*.

**Daniel Marcus** has published stories in many literary and genre venues, including *Asimov's*, *F&SF*, and *ZYZZYVA*. He is the author of the novels *Burn Rate* and *A Crack In Everything* and a short story collection, *Binding Energy*. Daniel was a finalist for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer. He is a member of the sf/f faculty at Gotham Writers' Workshop and a Clarion West graduate. After a spectacularly unsuccessful career attempt as a saxophonist, Daniel earned a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from U.C. Berkeley, has worked as an applied mathematician at the Lawrence Livermore Lab and Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study, and has authored numerous articles in the applied mathematics and computational physics literature. Daniel then turned his attention to the private sector, where for the last 15 years, he has built and managed systems and software in a variety of problem domains and organizational settings.

**Theresa Mecklenborg** has had a body for nearly thirty years now, and has pretty much come to terms with it. It keeps doing new and exciting things.

**Mary Anne Mohanraj** is author of *Bodies in Motion* (HarperCollins) and nine other titles. *Bodies in Motion* was a finalist for the Asian American Book Awards and has been translated into six languages. Previous titles include *Aqua Erotica*, *Wet*, *Kathryn in the City*, *The Classics Professor*, and *The Best of Strange Horizons*. Mohanraj founded the Hugo-nominated magazine, *Strange Horizons*. She was Guest of Honor at WisCon 2010, received a Breaking Barriers Award from the Chicago Foundation for Women for Asian American arts organizing, and won an IL Arts Council Fellowship in Prose. Mohanraj has taught at the Clarion SF/F workshop, and is now Clin. Asst. Prof. of fiction and literature and Assoc. Dir. of Asian & Asian American Studies at the Univ. of IL at Chicago. She serves as Exec. Dir. of both DesiLit ([www.desilit.org](http://www.desilit.org)) and the Speculative Literature Foundation ([www.speclit.org](http://www.speclit.org)). Recent publications include "Talking to Elephants" (*Abyss & Apex*) and "Jump Space" (*Thoughtcrime Experiments*).



She lives in a creaky old Victorian near Chicago with her partner, Kevin, two small children, and a sweet dog.

**Brooks Moses** is a remote-working computer programmer (and occasional manager) with a tendency to hyperfocus, and thus spends much of his working life with a feeling that he has been uploaded into the server farm via IRC and SSH. He recently built a standing desk to ensure that he does not remain entirely inert while disembodied. Brooks has a particular interest in how one can intentionally change one's state of mind/body being by changing the spaces one lives in, particularly in whimsical ways.

**Suzanne Moses** dislikes speaking of herself in the third person. "I'm a fan of whimsy, laughter, and red pens. I'm a raging introvert who loves small-group discussions but is still intimidated by the con suite. I'm likely to spend a lot of time curled up in the corner with a book, but am thrilled by friendly interruptions. I work in scientific publishing and every day I find the ideas I first discovered in science fiction being enhanced or challenged by new discoveries about our minds and bodies. I treat my depressive disorder and obsessions with literature and new ideas, and I'm very excited to see what new tangents the topic this year gives me to explore."

**Pat Murphy** was one of FOGcon 1's Honored Guests, and she's coming to FOGcon 2! She won the Nebula award for *The Falling Woman* and (the same year) for her novella "Rachel in Love," which also won the Isaac Asimov Reader's Award, and the Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award. Her short story collection, *Points of Departure* won the 1990 Philip K. Dick Award for best paperback original. Her novella "Bones" won the World Fantasy Award. Her most recent novel is the children's novel, *The Wild Girls*, which is not science fiction or fantasy. When she's not writing science fiction, she edits and creates projects for Klutz Press. Last year, she won the California Closets Facebook contest with innovative YouTube videos, and had her whole study remade.

**Debbie Notkin** has been an SF bookseller, editor (for Tor Books and Prima Publishing, among others), book reviewer, fanzine publisher, convention runner, and just about everything else you could name, except for actually writing the fiction, which she leaves to others. She wrote the text for Laurie Toby Edison's books of photography—*Women En Large: Images of Fat Nudes* and *Familiar Men: A Book of Nudes* and blogs with Laurie at Body Impolitic ([www.laurietobyedison.com/discuss](http://www.laurietobyedison.com/discuss)). She is the chair of the James Tiptree Award motherboard. She is currently extremely excited about being one of the guests of Honor for WisCon 36, in Madison, Wisconsin, on Memorial Day weekend 2012, and about sharing that limelight with the talented Andrea Hairston.

**Oyceter** blogs about books, food, rats, and currently, how Sims Social and Glitch are taking over her life at [oyceter.dreamwidth.org](http://oyceter.dreamwidth.org)

**Shannon Page** was born on Halloween night and spent her early years on a commune in northern California's backwoods. A childhood without television gave her a great love of books and the worlds she found in them. She wrote



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her first book, an illustrated adventure starring her cat, at the age of seven. Sadly, that story is currently out of print, but her work has appeared in *Clarkesworld*, *Interzone*, *Fantasy*, *Black Static*, *Tor.com*, and a mighty number of anthologies, including *Love and Rockets* from DAW, *Subterranean's Tales of Dark Fantasy 2*, *Flying Pen Press's Space Tramps: Full Throttle Space Tales #5*, and the Australian Shadows Award-winning *Grants Pass*. Shannon is a longtime yoga practitioner and newbie swimmer, has no tattoos, and lives in Portland, Oregon, with lots of orchids and even more books. Visit her at [www.shannonpage.net](http://www.shannonpage.net).

**Mickey Phoenix** is taller than a speeding bullet, more absurd than a locomotive, and able to leap to conclusions in a single bound. He has recently acquired a dog and become a cyborg (separately). His hobbies include WoW, fitness, guitar, and a one-percent remainder comprising cooking, writing, singing, reading, poetry, gratuitous optimization, canoeing, hiking, and using "comprise" correctly. His intention for his children is that they grow up to be compassionate, communicative bibliophiliacs. A rabid Bokononist, his personal foma include his own inordinate luck, pronia, and the certainty that everyone is doing the best they can with the tools and knowledge they possess. His core practice is kaizen. Mickey knows a little bit about nearly everything, and is eager to learn more from you. Speak!

**Lorelei Powers** (AKA Mistress Lorelei) is the author of several pioneering works on BDSM. *The Mistress Manual* and *The Charm School for Sissy Maids* are classics. Her most recent book is a collection of stories called *On Display*, available soon as an ebook and in fall 2012 in a longer paperback edition.

**Jason S. Ridler** has published over forty short stories in such magazines and anthologies as *Brain Harvest*, *Not One of Us*, *Big Pulp*, *Chilling Tales*, *Tesseract's Thirteen*, and more. His popular non-fiction has appeared in *Clarkesworld*, *Dark Scribe*, and the *Internet Review of Science Fiction*. A former punk rock musician and cemetery groundskeeper, Mr. Ridler holds a Ph.D. in War Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada. Visit him at his writing blog, *Ridleville*, Facebook, and on twitter @JayRidler. He is represented by Jennie Goloboy at the Red Sofa Literary Agency.

**Madeleine Robins** is the author of eleven novels, including five Regency romances, one media tie-in novel (*Daredevil: The Cutting Edge*), one New York Times Notable Book (*The Stone War*), three Sarah Tolerance alternate-Regency-noir-mysteries (*Point of Honour*, *Petty Treason*, and *The Sleeping Partner*), and one historical novel (*The Salernitan Women*, scheduled for Winter 2013 from Tor) as well as a double handful of SF and fantasy short stories. She is a founding member of The Book View Cafe, a collective of authors publishing their work online; she is a past Secretary of Science Fiction Writers of America and the current Nebula Awards commissioner. She currently works at Klutz Books as a production editor. In other lives she has been a nanny, a book-repairer, an actor combatant, a teacher, a comic book editor, and Assistant to the Publisher at a Major Metropolitan SF Publisher. She lives in San Francisco with her family and her dog, and doesn't get enough sleep.



**Steven Schwartz** is a formal poet, letterpress printer, computer geek, soccer player, German speaker, and SF/F fan and writer. His favorite SF book is determined by a formula which the margin of this book is too small to contain, and changes frequently. His letterpress work can be found at <http://www.etsy.com/shop/chetwoodpress>, his SF/F at Circlet Press, his life (with cats, partner, and kids) in Oakland, and his soccer at an undisclosed location. His forthcoming book of short fiction and poetry will be published by Renaissance eBooks later in 2012. He is frequently mistaken for Jerry Garcia, Peter Jackson, and a Russian mobster.

**Lori Selke's** fiction has appeared in *Asimov's* and *Strange Horizons*. Her queer erotic fiction is collected in *Lost Girls and Others* and she is the guest co-editor of the forthcoming *Outlaw Bodies* anthology from The Future Fire. She lives in Oakland.

**Laura Shapiro** has been an avid reader of SF/F since childhood, and has participated in media fandom since 1983. She's been vidding since 2001, leading panels at Escapade and Vividcon in a variety of technical and artistic topics related to the art form. In 2007, with Francesca Coppa, she curated a presentation on vidding for the 24/7: DIY Video Conference. In 2008 she edited the "What Is Vidding?" series of instructional videos created by the Organization for Transformative Works for use in media literacy classes. She is still in love with Doctor Who.

**Wendy Shaffer** is a writer, former enzymologist, and enthusiastically incompetent runner, climber, and weightlifter.

**Emily C. Skaftun** is an alumna of Clarion West and Roosevelt University's MFA program. She is obsessed with fate, apocalypses, her cat, and (apparently) talking fish. Her fiction has appeared in *Strange Horizons*, *FLURB*, *Ideomancer*, and *Attic Toys*.

**Randy Smith** is shocked to learn that he has been around fandom long enough (30 years or more) to qualify for associate membership in First Fandom. During that time he has written fanzine articles, participated in an APA, collected comics and old prozines, and helped run conventions. That's him, running around backstage at many Hugo ceremonies helping folks to get on and off stage. On his 50th birthday, he participated in a convention Masquerade for the very first time! He is also a frequent convention panelist, mostly talking about old books and religion. Mundanely, he is a United Methodist pastor serving in the East Bay.

**Katie Sparrow** lives in San Francisco where she writes social science fiction and fantasy that tends to be obsessed with themes of community, autonomy, and revolution.

**Norm Sperling** edits the science humor magazine, *The Journal of Irreproducible Results*, and always seeks new authors. He teaches freshman astronomy for UC Berkeley. He opposes astrology and other pseudoscience through the Bay Area Skeptics. He speaks baseball, publishing, historical science, and product design. Starting next January, he's going to travel America in an RV ([www.everythingintheuniverse.com/node/76](http://www.everythingintheuniverse.com/node/76)), and wants



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your suggestions for the best places and events for a science fiction or science fan to see. Also, your "life-list" recommendations: what should a science fiction or science fan experience or do in their life?

**Aaron I. Spielman** is a professional artist, professional computer geek, a motorcyclist and an extrovert. He is *not* a mad scientist, a rogue alien or a scary monster, and any suggestions to contrary will be met with a paroxysm of denials. He is no longer frequently mistaken for Jerry Garcia, but is sometimes mistaken for FOGcon's head of programming. He's been an active genre fan for most of his life and has been attending and helping to run genre conventions for almost thirty years. He lives with his wife, his brother, his cat, and his motorcycles in Daly City, CA.

**Daniel Starr** first read *Lord of the Rings* and *Dune* when he was seven. He's been a fan ever since, although in later years his tastes have broadened to include history, economics, mathematics, and chocolate.

**Jean Marie Stine** is a writer, editor, anthologist and fan. During the second and third seasons of *Star Trek*, JM worked for Gene Roddenberry on several projects, including background material for a never-filmed Roddenberry production of Tarzan. Her novels include *A Day in the Life (The Prisoner #3)*, based on the iconic television series, and *Season of the Witch* (filmed as *Synapse* starring Matt McCoy). *Science Fiction Review* called *Synapse* "one of the 30 Most Important SF Novels of the 1960s." JM has edited *Future Eves; The Legendary Women Detectives; I, Vampire;* and *Those Doggone Dogs*, among others. She was editor-in-chief of *Galaxy* magazine and Starblaze Editions. She has been senior acquisitions and development editor for Houghton-Mifflin, Jeremy Tarcher, and St. Martins. One recent collection (*Herstory & Other Science Fictions*) rounds up JM's sf/f/h short fiction, and another (*Trans-sexual: Transgressive Erotica*) presents fiction on transgender themes. JM is editor and publisher of Futures-Past Editions (an imprint of PageTurner Editions), celebrating its eleventh year as a digital publisher of sf/f/h ebooks, and now PoD trade paperbacks.

**Amy Sundberg** is a SF/F and YA writer. Her stories have been published in *Daily SF*, *New Myths*, and *Crossed Genres*, and she has work upcoming in the *Fantastic Stories of the Imagination* anthology. She loves musical theater, ice cream, traveling, and learning about neuroscience. She blogs regularly at [practicalfreespirit.com](http://practicalfreespirit.com).

**Rachel Swirsky's** short fiction has appeared in a number of magazines and anthologies and been nominated for the Hugo, the Sturgeon, the Locus Award, the World Fantasy Award, and the Million Writers Award. In 2011, her novella "The Lady Who Plucked Red Flowers Beneath the Queen's Window" won the Nebula Award. Her first collection, *Through The Drowsy Dark*, a slim volume of poetry and short stories, came out from Aqueduct Press in 2011.

**Tari** is the name I go by in online fandom. My journal profile sums it up pretty well: 'Korean-American graduate student in molecular and cell biology. Avid reader and compulsive blogger. Fan of Asian dramas, anime/manga/manhwa/manhua and SF/F.'"



**Guy W. Thomas** has been a science fiction reader since 1965 or so. He started attending SF conventions in the late 70s. He has a BA from UC Berkeley in Dramatic Arts. He's a Disability Rights/Independent Living advocate, and an unapologetic bleeding heart liberal. He was active in Democratic politics, but now he's a Green. He's been elected to public office, served on many county and state level commissions and committees. He was President of the Center for Independent Living and volunteers for many other nonprofit organizations. He's a writer, wannabe actor and director.

**Naamen Gobert Tilahun** is a writer/bookseller/barista in the Bay Area. He received his M.F.A. in English Literature and Fiction from Mills College in 2010 and is just now recovering from the experience. He is currently hard at work completing his first novel both writing and shouting down his internal editor. He is very interested in the confluences of personal identities and the way in which those things effect how we read, write and embody our fiction. His fiction has appeared in *Collective Fallout*, his poetry in *So Speak Up* (and forthcoming in *Faggot Dinosaur*) and his non-fiction in *Fantasy Magazine*, *Feminist SF - The Blog*, *The Angry Black Woman* and *The WisCon Chronicles, Vol. 2*

**Juliette Wade** writes science fiction and fantasy inspired by her experiences overseas and her love of linguistics and anthropology. Her work has appeared in *Analog* magazine, and she blogs about language and culture in sf/f at <http://talktoyouuniverse.blogspot.com>.

**Ann Wilkes'** first novel, *Awesome Lavratt*, is a tongue-in-cheek space opera. Her most recent story sales have been to 2011 Dark Quest Books anthologies: *Beauty Has Her Way* and *Defending the Future IV: No Man's Land*. She reviews science fiction, interviews authors and delivers sci-fi commentary at Science Fiction and Other ODDysseys. When she's not writing, Ann can be found dancing or beach bumming. Visit her at [www.annwilkes.com](http://www.annwilkes.com).

**Greer Woodward** was a lyricist for many years, contributing to commercials, choral pieces, children's theatre and musical revues. Now she's come to her senses and is writing fantasy short stories and poetry. Two of her poems are up for the 2012 Rhysling Award. Greer is a graduate of Clarion West, founder and current satellite member of the New York writing group Altered Fluid, and co-host of the Writers Support Group at Tutu's House on the Big Island of Hawaii.

**Christie Yant** is a science fiction and fantasy writer and habitual volunteer. She has been a "podtern" for *Geek's Guide to the Galaxy*, an Assistant Editor for *Lightspeed Magazine*, occasional narrator for StarShipSofa, and remains a co-blogger at [Inkpunks.com](http://Inkpunks.com), a website for aspiring and newly-pro writers. Her fiction has appeared in *Crossed Genres*, *Daily SF*, *Fireside Magazine*, and the anthologies *The Way of the Wizard*, *Year's Best Science Fiction & Fantasy 2011*, and *Armored*. She lives in a former Temperance colony on the central coast of California, where she sometimes gets to watch rocket launches with her husband and her two amazing daughters. Follow her on Twitter @inkhaven.

**Eric "in the Elevator" Zuckerman** is not a real talk show host, but he does play one on TV. His eponymous fannish video comedy project has been filming since BayCon 2001. He has been a GoH at Arisia (2008) and LunaCon (2011).



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In addition to his duties as a Nerd Comedian, he's also known as an avid gamer/gamemaster (including geocaching events at cons up to the WorldCon level), friendly moderator/panelist, semi-compulsive badge-ribbon collector/trader, and armchair "fanthropologist."

**Yonatan Zunger** is Chief Architect for Social at Google, and so spends much of his time thinking about how technology can influence our interactions as individuals and the growth of human society as a whole. In his past he has built industrial AI's, been a theoretical physicist, and done research in medieval history. He is a voracious spec fic reader and lives in Mountain View with his wife and dog.



## Nalo Hopkinson

(continued from page 4)

Five novels, one story collection. Six ways of loving a black author. The most recent novel, *The Chaos*, is science fiction for young adults and that's pretty much all I can tell you about it. I've been standing on my tiptoes and gesticulating wildly at the publisher, trying to obtain a review copy. It's not here yet. I'm waiting for "The Chaos," but not patiently. Love is no servant.

As I wait I pore over memories of the past, recalling my favorite fictional moments. Counting the ways in which I love them. "The Glass Bottle Trick," for instance.

First appearing in *Whispers from the Cotton Tree Root*, a collection of Caribbean fabulist fiction Nalo herself edited,

"Glass Bottle" was reprinted in her story collection *Kinfolk* in 2001. Like the parlor trick of its title, this retelling of the Bluebeard story achieves magical effects with ordinary household objects and occurrences: eggs, air conditioning, pregnancy. Its villain's beautifully believable self-hatred provides ample motivation for the horrors he commits. The possibility of his victims' revolt is left open at "Glass Bottle's" end. But there's also the possibility that what lies beyond the tale's telling will shatter everything so carefully, so fragily realized.

Genius. Check. Audacity Check.

As mentioned above, not only does she write and teach, Nalo also edits.

Editing is a creative endeavor. With contributors an editor crafts a reading experience. She envisions and assembles and polishes a book into existence using her wit and temperament. But she's shaping much more than one book, one reading experience: she's defining a moment, a movement, sometimes an entire genre. I've been among the many beneficiaries of Nalo's editing expertise, and I've watched her call into being astounding new ways of looking at the world.

Vision and persistence.  
More reasons for more love.

In May of this year PM Press is planning to release "Report from the Planet Midnight." This small but powerful volume will include an interview conducted by

### A Partial Nalo Hopkinson Bibliography

*Brown Girl in the Ring*, 1998, Warner.

*Midnight Robber*, 2000, Warner.

*Skin Folk*, 2001, Warner.

*The Salt Roads*, 2003, Warner.

*The New Moon's Arms*, 2007, Warner.

*The Chaos*, 2012, Margaret K. McElderry

### An Additional Partial Nalo Hopkinson Bibliography

*Whispers from the Cotton Tree Root: Caribbean Fabulist Fiction*, 2000, editor, Invisible Cities Press.

*Mojo: Conjure Stories*, 2003, editor, Warner.

*So Long Been Dreaming*, 2004, coeditor with Uppinder Mehan, Arsenal Pulp Press.



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Terry Bisson, the story "Message in a Bottle," and Nalo's historic address to the 2010 International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, a speech which gives the whole book its name.

I won't try to convey secondhand her electrifying effect on the audience as evidenced by the gasps, cheers, applause, and giggles of delight Nalo elicited. Pretending to be possessed by an alien intelligence puzzled by our planet's discourse on race, she delivered memorable translations of such timeworn platitudes as "I'm not racist," ("I can wade in feces without getting any of it on me").

Humor. Check. Passion. Check. Vision, persistence, genius, and audacity: check, check, check, and check.

You'll find accounts of Nalo's nonprofessional life on her website at <http://www.nalohopkinson.com/> and courtesy of Wikipedia at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nalo\\_Hopkinson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nalo_Hopkinson). Add fruit--gorgeous varieties seldom seen in the U.S. and Canada, succulences supreme--and you'll have a basic understanding of where she's coming from. Except for certain negative aspects of her existence.

Nalo has been diagnosed with fibromyalgia, a poorly understood medical condition encompassing chronic pain, fatigue, lack of mental acuity, and other annoying symptoms. There are treatments, but currently no cure. When she learned I'd received the same diagnosis, Nalo gave me a list of over thirty supplements she took to cope with it. She offered advice as well, pertinent and helpful. She saved my life.

On occasion, Nalo has also given me money. Not that she's fabulously rich. But when I passed on going to a local restaurant with her because I had food at home, she understood what I wasn't saying. She paid my way then, and she's done it a few other times.

Kindness. Humor. Passion. Vision. Persistence. Genius. Audacity. What's not to love?

Whatever it is, I haven't found it yet. I'm still looking. But not for that; I'm looking for the good stuff, really. Reasons to love Nalo Hopkinson. There are always more.

— Nisi Shawl

Nisi Shawl published seven new short stories in 2011 and was also WisCon 35's Guest of Honor. Her collection *Filter House* won a 2008 James Tiptree, Jr. Award. Shawl is coauthor of *Writing the Other: A Practical Approach*, and she edits reviews for *The Cascadia Subduction Zone*, a literary quarterly from Aqueduct Press. She's a founding member of the Carl Brandon Society and serves on Clarion West's Board of Directors. She's fairly active on Twitter and Facebook, and she promises to update her homepage ([www.sfw.org/members/shawl](http://www.sfw.org/members/shawl)) soon.

"We are unfashioned creatures, but half made up, if one wiser, better, dearer than ourselves -- such a friend ought to be -- do not lend his aid to perfectionate our weak and faulty natures."-- Mary Shelley



## Shelley Jackson (continued from page 5)

Jackson was raised in nearby Berkeley, California and has an AB in art from Stanford and a MFA in creative writing from Brown University, one of the strongholds of innovative fiction in the United States. She's a Pushcart Prize winner, was named a "writer on the verge" back when the Village Voice still gave a damn about writers and edge culture, and she is your FOGCon guest of honor in charge of exploring the body and the word. Speaking of, if there's room on your body, Jackson may have a word for you, and it. If you become one of her Words, I'm told she'll do her best to attend your funeral.

— Nick Mamatas

Nick Mamatas is the author of several published but largely unread novels, including *Sensation* (PM Press) and the forthcoming *Bullettime* (ChiZine Publications). His short fiction has appeared or soon will in Mississippi Review, The New Haven Review, Asimov's SF, Long Island Noir and many other venues. His reportage and essays have been published in The Smart Set, Village Voice, Poets & Writers, H+ and other publications. His how-to guide for writers, *Starve Better: Surviving the Endless Horror of the Writing Life* (Apex Publications), is a current Bram Stoker Award nominee.

*"I felt my skull boxing in my brain. I felt my skin bagging my skull. I felt the muscular length of me turning and flexing and I knew all these things were glad collaborators of the machine. I had to attend."* -- Shelley Jackson

## Mary Shelley (continued from page 6)

record of Mary's attendance. Her journals record that she read about 100 books a year in several languages, including Latin and Greek. Her interests were eclectic and included fiction, poetry, history, philosophy natural sciences and medicine.

She returned to London after Percy's death in 1822 and went on to write novels, travel books, biographies, poetry, short fiction, and to edit Percy's work. In her 1826 novel, *The Last Man*, she returned to supernatural science fiction with a chilling, dystrophic tale of the destruction of humankind. She was a remarkable woman.

—Phoebe Wray

Phoebe Wray is the author of the futurist dystopian novel *Jemma7729*, with the sequel, *J2*, due for release this spring. She has stories in three anthologies and several magazines, is a produced playwright, a published poet, and teaches History of the Theatre and Cultural History at The Boston Conservatory.



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### Access Information

We at FOGcon take accessibility seriously. We take the approach of universal design: making schedules, communications, and the physical environment usable by as many people as possible. Detailed, up-to-date information will be posted at our accessibility web page: <http://fogcon.org/about-fogcon/policies/accessibility-policy/> .

You can always email [access@fogcon.org](mailto:access@fogcon.org), if you have questions, special needs, or requests.

Unfortunately, we can't make the entire con barrier-free. We are limited by finances, volunteer staffing, and the cussedness of reality: sometimes the accommodation essential to one person (a helper animal, for example) is a barrier to another (those allergic to animals). Let us know, please, if you encounter difficulties or if you can offer suggestions or help.

At a minimum, we expect to offer these accommodations:

- A highly accessible, nonsmoking hotel with a number of handicapped access rooms
- Reserved seats in meeting rooms to help those who need to see or hear
- Dealers' room aisles wide enough for two wheelchairs to pass
- An effort to reduce perfumes for those with scent sensitivities
- Lists of ingredients wherever possible for those with food allergies
- A wide array of edibles to maximize your chances to find food that is both safe and luscious
- Signs at different heights because not everyone's eye level is the same
- An electronic version of the con schedule
- A Quiet Room to help you minimize stress
- Accessible website design

### Minimizing Stress and Maximizing Comfort

The weather both inside and out varies a lot. Bring layers to add in chilly program rooms, subtract in hot ones, and ensure you're comfortable in the wide range of weather both inside and outside the hotel.

#### *Mobility*

If you wish to rent a wheelchair or motorized scooter, we have found a service that will deliver rentals to the hotel's bell desk and pick it up after the con at no additional charge. Email [access@fogcon.org](mailto:access@fogcon.org) for details. Reserve at least 48 hours in advance; a week is better.

#### *Reading*

FOGcon provides information in various formats. Our most important publications are the pocket program and this Program Book. In addition to



regular print, the FOGcon web site hosts PDF and HTML versions of both publications. A printed pocket program and the Program Book is included in the membership packet.

### *Listening*

For the convenience of speech-readers, we set aside blue stripe seats front and center in every program room. Program participants *may* be able to use microphones in the larger program rooms. Contact us at [access@fogcon.org](mailto:access@fogcon.org) to see if we can arrange any other accommodations you may request.

### *Eating*

If you feel safer or more comfortable bringing your own food, you'll be pleased to hear that every room at the Walnut Creek Marriott Hotel features a minifridge.

The menu for the Unaward Banquet has been chosen to allow a broad spectrum of delicious foods. You should be able to find gluten-free, dairy-free, vegetarian, and vegan options. Sorry, not kosher. We will try to post ingredient lists and avoid cross-contamination, but we cannot guarantee it.

The Consuite is open Friday from noon to 2AM; Saturday from 8AM to 2AM; and Sunday from 8AM to 8PM. Every attempt will be made to supply ingredient lists and avoid cross-contamination.

### *Breathing*

Our "zoned" fragrance policy balances two needs. For some members, fragrances trigger asthma, migraine, or illness. Other members need to use fragrance to manage pain and mood. Please leave scented products at home if you can do so without detriment to your own health. The Dealers' Room wares may include incense and dusty books. The hotel uses scented cleaning products. Those of us who react strongly to fragrances, dust, and particulates should bring an N95 mask.

Pets are allowed in the Walnut Creek Marriott Hotel.

### **Potential Barriers that Remain**

Given our fiscal limitations, our commitment to our current conference venue, and the reality that sometimes one member's accommodation is another member's barrier, we can't make FOGcon perfectly accessible to everyone. We don't want to make promises we can't keep. We want you to know about these potential barriers so you can make informed decisions. "Sorry, we can't" is not the same message as "we don't care" or "we don't believe you" or "we're comfortable ignoring your needs." The Concom has and will continue to wrestle with these issues. Contact [access@fogcon.org](mailto:access@fogcon.org) for background on these remaining barriers:



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- Most of the programming rooms are illuminated with fluorescent lighting.
- Members bring a lot of reading materials only available in regular print. The “freebie” tables groan with info on events, zines, books, con bids, art shows, political theater, and much more. Party announcements and such decorate the walls.
- Folks with severe nut allergies should definitely avoid the Unaward Banquet.
- FOGcon is not scent-free.
- The toilet facilities are labeled “Men” and “Women,” although humans don’t divide that neatly.
- We cannot guarantee microphones in all program rooms.
- We have not yet found volunteer interpreters or captioning, and FOGcon just can’t afford paid ones.

### **Allies: How Every Member Contributes to an Accessible Con**

The most significant barriers can be created by thoughtless behavior and inaccurate assumptions about people with disabilities. Part of FOGcon’s community values is to create a con that is accessible and a community that supports accessibility issues.

We all learn contradictory messages about people with disabilities. Disabled people are the archetypal “other”: the fate-worse-than-death, the sainted and spiritual, the cursed and amoral, the sub-human, the super-human, the sexless and the over-sexed. These conflicting stereotypes support a weird stew of fear and fascination. All members create a universally accessible con by paying attention to our own behavior and attitudes.

**Offer help—don’t assume it’s needed.** Most of us are taught to “help the handicapped” but not to ask “does this person want or need help?” If you think someone may need assistance, just ask. If they say yes, don’t make assumptions; instead listen to the details of what the person with disabilities wants. If they say “no thanks,” don’t be offended. What might look overly complicated or inefficient can be what that disabled person finds works best.

**Don’t assume people with disabilities want or need fixing.** Members with disabilities are here for the same reasons non-disabled members are: to think and talk about speculative fiction in the beautiful city of San Francisco.

Bad ways to start (or continue) a conversation:

- “My nephew cured his fibromyalgia with a yak-milk diet.”
- “Don’t they have a wonderful new medicine for that?”
- “Why take drugs when you just need a positive mental attitude and yoga?”



Better ways to start (or continue) a conversation:

- "Have you read Nalo Hopkinson's *The Salt Roads*?"
- "I see you've got an Android. How do you like it?"
- "Don't I know you from LiveJournal?"

**Privacy.** Please respect others' physical and emotional boundaries. Do not lean on someone's wheelchair or move it without permission. Be aware that sudden hugs, tickles, or touches from behind can be seriously triggering to someone with PTSD. Those with scent sensitivities or plant allergies may have severe reactions to having flowers or perfume thrust in their face. Do not ask how someone became disabled or assume their experience is the same as another person with a similar disability. The Access Team have chosen to be information resources about disabilities—ask us.

**Respect Blue Zones.** Chairs marked with blue are reserved for those who must sit up front in order to lipread or hear. Wheelchair spaces are also marked in blue. Blue zones in hallways and aisles, if any, must be kept clear for people entering or leaving. Don't create traffic jams, please.

**Maintain clear paths.** FOGcon provides fantastic opportunities to talk, but clogged doorways and hallways make navigation time-consuming for all, and impossible for some of us. Tuck your belongings in front of your feet or under your seat. Remind members gathered in doorways or hallways of the need to share the limited space so all of us can move freely.

**Share the air.** Smoke and scents travel quickly, and air won't move if you ask it to. Washing your hands after smoking makes a difference. We ask that you limit your use of scented products if you can do so without negatively affecting your health. For those of us with asthma, migraine, and chemical sensitivities, fewer fragrances, vapors, and particulates make the con a place we can attend. Some of us smoke, and some of us don't. The hotel is completely non-smoking. FOGcon is not, however, a fragrance-free con.

**Spread the word.** Universal Design simplifies life by making products, communications, and the built environment more usable by as many people as possible at little or no extra cost. Universal design benefits people of all ages and abilities. The Access Team is delighted to discuss how you can incorporate universal design into your conventions, buildings, instruction, publishing and lives: contact us now via [access@fogcon.org](mailto:access@fogcon.org) or in person at the con.

**Speak up!** You don't need to have a disability to advocate for access. If you see barriers, feel free to suggest how to clear them—whether this means talking respectfully to other members, alerting Safety, or contacting the Access Team or another Concom member.

**Many thanks to the WisCon Access Team, who very kindly gave us permission to use and adapt their fine document on accessibility.**



## **FOGcon 2**

### **Anti-Harassment Policy**

FOGcon is committed to offering a convention experience as free from harassment as we can make it for our members regardless of characteristics such as gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, age, race, religion, nationality, or social class. We do not tolerate harassment of conference participants in any form. FOGcon attendees violating these rules may be sanctioned or expelled from the convention without a refund at the discretion of the convention organizers.

Harassment includes offensive verbal comments related to such characteristics, deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, unwelcome photography or recording, sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome attention. Attendees asked to stop any harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately.

If a FOGcon attendee engages in harassing behavior, the convention organizers may take any lawful action we deem appropriate, including but not limited to warning the offender or expelling them from the convention with no refund. If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have similar concerns, please contact a convention staff member immediately. While we are primarily concerned with preventing harassment in FOGcon space during the convention, we will also respond to FOGcon-related situations that might occur outside that space, for example in local shops, bars, restaurants, or on the street, or in online contexts.

Convention staff will help attendees contact hotel security or local law enforcement, provide escorts, or otherwise assist those experiencing harassment to feel less unsafe for the duration of the convention. We value your presence.

### **Photography Policy**

Please read carefully. This policy has changed from last year.

Almost everyone who has a cell phone has a camera, and almost everyone who comes to FOGcon has a cell phone. Video and audio recording and photography for personal archival use only is generally okay, unless individuals make it clear that they do not wish to be photographed or filmed, in which case any photography or recording of them is expressly forbidden.

Please be polite and ask before taking photographs or recordings. We suggest that photographs be taken before or after a program event to avoid distracting panelists and audience members from their discussion.

You agree to be solely responsible for clearing any and all rights and permissions for any use(s) you might make of the photographs, recordings,



transcripts and similar material you take from the convention. Such material may not be posted to any commercial website or commercially operated streaming server including but not limited to YouTube, nor used for any commercial purpose whatsoever. Please ask permission of the subjects before posting to any generally available web sites including unlocked Flickr, Facebook, DreamWidth, or LiveJournal accounts. Your participation in FOGcon does not permit you to make use of FOGcon intellectual property. Other than for your purely personal, archival use, you may not use any FOGcon intellectual property for any purpose without the express written consent of FOGcon .

***Thanks to our friends at WisCon for graciously sharing their photography policy with us.***