

# Confluence, 20<sup>th</sup> Pittsburgh SF Convention

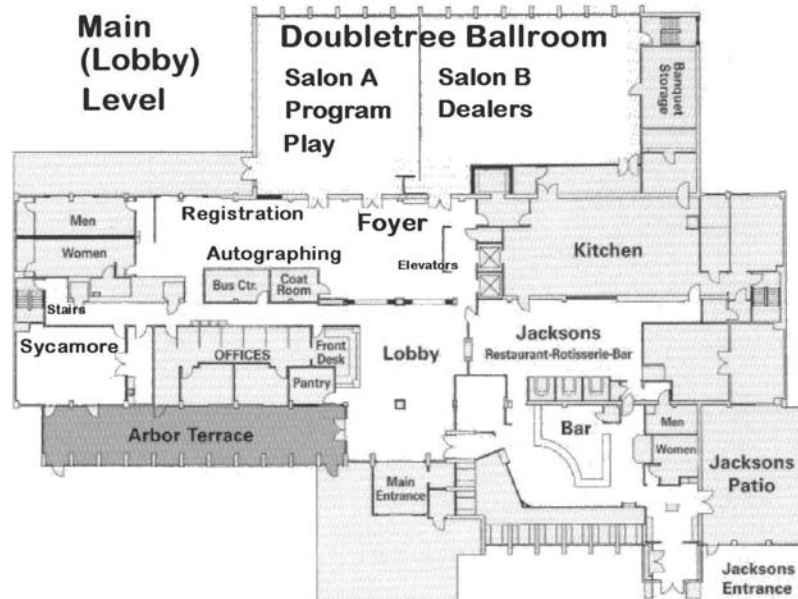
Friday, July 25-Sunday, July 27, 2008

Guest of Honor: Joe Haldeman

P. Schuyler Miller Critic Guest: Kathryn Cramer

Featured Filk: Lord Landless

Doubletree, Pittsburgh Airport, Hotel Map



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

Autograph sessions are located in the Main Level Foyer, across from Registration. They are ½ hour in length; ending at half past the hour. Most Readings are in Willow and also run for a ½ hour.

The Sycamore room is available for informal discussion and program item overflow on Saturday and Sunday. Some interviews may be going on in the room as well; if there's an "interview in progress" sign on the door, please do not go in.

## Room Locations:

LL– Lower Level      ML– Main (Lobby) Level

Kaffeeklatches – 224/225    Con Suite – 625

Friday, July 25, 2008

4:00pm

[Oak-LL]      **Starting Points: Alpha Participants Talk About What SF & Fantasy Got Them Started** *Lara Donnelly, Rebecca McNulty, Thomas Seay, Isaac White*

[Maple-LL]    **Video: *The Adventures of Superman* (1952)**

[Redwood-LL]    **Gaming in Filk**      It's fun to write filks about gaming, but some of the songs are just too obscure. Others transcend their source material, even reaching people who don't get all the references. *W. Randy Hoffman*

5:00pm

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

[Oak-LL] **The Alpha Writer's Workshop: A Review** The teen writing workshop is over. Hear how it went and what's on the docket for next year. *Ann Cecil, David Barr Kirtley, John Schmid, Thomas Seay, Diane Turnshek*

[Maple-LL]    **Video: *Superman* (1978)**

[Redwood-LL]    **Filk Mad Libs, Volume 2** Come ready to suggest substitute words—*NOUN...ADJECTIVE...NAME OF BARBARIAN*—for popular filk songs. When the song has been fully transmogrified, listen to Randy's attempt to sing the results. Lather, rinse, repeat<del>VERB.      *W. Randy Hoffman*

6:00pm

**[Oak-LL] Is the Internet Essentially Fungal?** In his book *Mycelium Running*, mycologist Paul Stamets argues that fungi are nature's Internet. Perhaps it's really the other way around. Is the Internet essentially fungal? *Kathryn Cramer, Geoffrey A. Landis, James Morrow, Mary A. Turzillo*

**[Willow-LL] How Other Species Depend Upon Senses We Don't Rely Upon** *Kenneth B. Chiacchia*

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

**[Redwood-LL] 2008 Pegasus Nominations** Once again, it's nomination time. No, not for office—for the Pegasus Awards! Come discuss which filk songs, songwriters, and performers you'd like to see on the ballot. *W. Randy Hoffman*

7:00pm

**[Oak-LL] Rhyme, Meter, and Language in Fantasy** In her essay "From Elfland to Poughkeepsie," Ursula Le Guin discusses the importance of style in fantasy. She contends that fantasy requires a style that, if not followed, can hurl the reader out of Elfland and send him or her to Poughkeepsie. (She cites the way characters in fantasies by Zelazny and Leiber break into contemporary slang as examples.) *Herb Kauderer, Joshua B. Palmatier, Tamora Pierce, Michelle (Sagara) West*

**[Willow-LL] Life in the Universe** *Diane Turnshek*

**[Redwood-LL] Concert: Dave Wells**

**[224/225] Beer Tasting**

7:30pm

**[Maple-LL] Video: *V for Vendetta* (2005)**

8:00pm

**Dealers Room/Art Show Close**

**[Oak-LL] My Favorite Planet: In Fact and in Fiction** *Joe Haldeman, William H. Keith, Geoffrey A. Landis, Bud Sparhawk*

**[Willow-LL] The Landscape of Horror: How the feeling of place works in horror fiction** *Lawrence C. Connolly, John A. Taylor*

**[Redwood-LL] Tom Smith Dedication and Parody Time**

Filker Tom Smith is recovering from an injury and multiple surgeries. Now's your chance to perform a song for him, or to perform a parody of his work. We'll record the mayhem and send him a copy to (we hope) brighten his day!

9:00pm

**[Oak-LL] Poetry (SF Poetry Reading)** *Kenneth B. Chiacchia, Joe Haldeman, Geoffrey A. Landis, Mary A. Turzillo*

**[Willow-LL] Trivia for Chocolate** Join in the trivia fest and see how much chocolate you can win by guessing the right answers! *Jim & Laurie Mann*

**[Redwood-LL] Concert: Lawrence Dean**

10:00pm

**[Maple-LL] Video: *Sin City* (2005)**

**[Redwood-LL] Concert: Juanita Coulson**

11:00pm

**[Redwood-LL] Open Filk**

**Saturday, July 26, 2008**

9:00am

**[Sycamore-ML] Writing Exercises** Bring paper and a pen *Ade Conway, Megan Auffart*

**[Maple-LL] Video: *City Hunter* (1993)**

10:00am

**Dealers Room/PARSEC Sales/Art Show Open**

**[224/225] Tea with Tammy** (Sign up at Registration) *Tamora Pierce*

**[Oak-LL] Is It Still Cheese If It's Not Made With Milk? Future Trends in Food** Is soy milk really milk? Could vegans eat "meat" that was grown as flesh in vats? What are the scientific and ethical trends in food? *Herb Kauderer, Bud Sparhawk, Mary A. Turzillo*

**[Willow-LL] So This Is Your First Convention?** Welcome to fandom. Drop by to ask questions and hear stories about science fiction fandom. *Gay Haldeman, Laurie Mann*

11:00am

**[Salon A-ML] SF in the 1970s** Joe Haldeman, James Tiptree, Jr., George R. R. Martin, John Varley, C.J. Cherryh. What do these writers have in common? They all rose to prominence in the '70s. At the same time, such established masters as Fred Pohl, Arthur Clarke, Robert Silverberg, and Ursula Le Guin published some of their best work. *Juanita Coulson, Eric Davin, Gay Haldeman, David G. Hartwell, Alan Katerinsky*

**[Oak-LL] Making It Real: Bringing a Fantasy or SF Setting to Life**  
*Kenneth B. Chiacchia, Joshua B. Palmatier, Tamora Pierce, Michelle (Sagara) West*

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

**[Maple-LL] Video: *The Rocketeer* (1991)**

**[Redwood-LL] Composing Harmonies Workshop (lead by Sassafrass)**

11:30am

**[Willow-LL] Reading: Charles Oberndorf**

**[Walnut-LL] Art Show-Cloth Stenciling Demo** *Susan Dexter*

12:00 noon

**[224/225] Kaffeeklatsch /Literary Beer** (Sign up at Registration)  
*Lawrence C. Connolly, Joshua B. Palmatier*

**[Salon A-ML] *The Ambassadors* vs. Reasons to Be Cheerful**  
David Hartwell, with recent stories about the chemical nature of the brain, has declared the death of Jamesian fiction. Are the news of its death premature? Are these views of human thought mutually exclusive? Has SF found a more accurate approach to human nature? *David G. Hartwell, Herb Kauderer, James Morrow, Charles Oberndorf*

**[Oak-LL] Making Movies in Pittsburgh** Is Pittsburgh becoming Hollywood East (or at least Toronto South)? More movies are being filmed in Pittsburgh these days. Several of our locals follow this closely and have been involved with films made in the 'burgh. *Kevin Hayes, Laurie Mann, Henry Tjernlund*

**[Willow-LL] Reading: S. C. Butler**

**[Redwood-LL] Concert: Joe Haldeman**

12:30pm

**[Willow-LL] Reading: Karina Sumner-Smith**

1:00pm

**[224/225] Kaffeeklatsch/Literary Beer** (Sign up at Registration)  
*Alan Katerinsky, Herb Kauderer*

**[Salon A-ML] Critic Guest Talk: The Game of Genre** *Kathryn Cramer*

**[Foyer-ML] Autographing** (ending at 1:30pm) *Joe Haldeman, William H. Keith, Paul Melko*

**[Oak-LL] Osamu Tezuka: Anime Pioneer** Dr. Osamu Tezuka was a Japanese manga artist, animator, and producer. He is often credited as the "Father of Anime," and is often considered the Japanese equivalent to Walt Disney, who served as a major inspiration during his formative years. *Ada Palmer*

**[Maple-LL] Video: *Mystery Men* (1999)**

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

1:30pm

**[Walnut-LL] Art Show-Fimo Clay Sculpting Demo**  
*Barbara Carlson*

2:00pm

**[Salon A-ML] A Darker Mirror: SF as a Reflection of Its Time** It's been said by several critics that SF is really about the time it was written as much as it is about the future. The panel looks at some prominent examples and exceptions. *Juanita Coulson, Fruma Klass, Kathryn Morrow, Charles Oberndorf, S. Andrew Swann*

**[Foyer-ML] Autographing** (ending at 2:30pm) *James Morrow, Michelle (Sagara) West*

**[Oak-LL] Comedy in High Fantasy** We have Merry and Pippin in LOTR, and Fred and George Weasley in Harry Potter, but what other comic figures are there in High Fantasy? Are there enough? Should there be more? What, if any, is the purpose of comedy in High Fantasy? With any luck the panel will answer all these questions, and provide a few laughs as well. *S. C. Butler, Susan Dexter, Joshua B. Palmatier, Tamora Pierce, Karina Sumner-Smith*

**[Willow-LL] Reading: Paul Melko**

**[Redwood-LL] Concert: Naomi Pardue**

2:30pm

[Willow-LL] Reading: Bud Sparhawk

3:00pm

[Salon A-ML] Guest of Honor Joe Haldeman Is Interviewed by David G. Hartwell

[Maple-LL] Video: *Ghost in the Shell: Stand Alone Complex* (2002)

3:30pm

[Walnut-LL] Art Show Demo-Amber Carving: Nancy Janda

4:00pm

[224/225] Kaffeeklatsch/Literary Beer (Sign up at Registration)  
*William H. Keith, Michelle (Sagara) West*[Salon A-ML] **Where Has All The Big Screen SF Gone?** We've had a number of very good fantasy films over the last few years. And there are still good SF shows on TV. But what's happened to big screen SF? Look at the Hugo ballots of the last few years and you'll see many fantasy movies, but few SF. Where are the *Bladerunners*, the *2001s*, the *Aliens*, the *Star Wars* of today? *S. C. Butler, Herb Kauderer, Timothy Liebe, Jim Mann, Thomas Seay*[Oak-LL] **Trends in Short Fiction: From Original Anthologies to Online Fiction** Every year, we hear predictions of the death of short fiction. Yet some of the genres best works are not novels but short stories and novellas. And more new outlets are appearing. There are more good original anthologies than we've seen since the golden years of *Universe*, *New Dimension*, *Orbit*, and *Dangerous Visions*. And online markets are flourishing. The panel looks at some of the best new short fiction. *Lawrence C. Connolly, Kathryn Cramer, David Barr Kirtley, Paul Melko, Karina Sumner-Smith*

[Willow-LL] Reading: Susan Dexter

[Maple-LL] Video: *Flash Gordon* (1980)[Redwood-LL] Sing a Song of SETI *H. Paul Shuch*

4:30pm

[Willow-LL] Reading: David Barr Kirtley

5:00pm

[224/225] Kaffeeklatsch/Literary Beer (Sign up at Registration)  
*Gay Haldeman, Joe Haldeman*[Salon A-ML] **SF and Not SF: What are the best genre and non-genre books you've read in the last year** *Tim Esaias, Kathryn Morrow, Charles Oberndorf, Mary A. Turzillo*[Foyer-ML] **Autographing** (ending at 5:30pm) *Lawrence C. Connolly, John A. Taylor*[Oak-LL] **What's Best?** Never mind what's best *this year*, how do we decide what is best in SF and fantasy anyway? *Kathryn Cramer, David G. Hartwell, William Tenn, James Morrow*

[Willow-LL] Reading: Joshua B. Palmatier

[Redwood-LL] Concert: Sasafrass

5:30pm

[Willow-LL] Reading: S. Andrew Swann

6:00pm

Dealers Room/PARSEC Sales/Art Show Close

[Oak-LL] **Critiquing: Goals, Etiquette, Results** *Ann Cecil, Kenneth B. Chiacchia, Tim Esaias, Thomas Seay*[Maple-LL] Video: *Stardust* (2007)[Redwood-LL] **No Truce with Kings: Regime Change in Filk and Fantasy** A lot of fantasy literature and filk songs focus on attempted transfers of power, often violent: invasion, the overthrow of tyrants, the crowning of the true heir, and so on. This might make for dramatic storytelling and stirring music, but is it overdone? In what other ways has just rule come to the realm, and how does one write those stories and songs? *Susan Dexter, Judi Miller, Ada Palmer*

8:00pm

[Salon A-ML] **The Parallax Second Players Present James Morrow's "Come Back, Dr. Sarcophagus"**[Maple-LL] Video: *300* (2006)

8:45pm

**[Salon A-ML] Filk Guest Concert: Lord Landless**

9:00pm

**[Oak-LL] The New *Doctor Who*** *Doctor Who* has always had a following, but the new series has been popular with many who didn't even like the older series. What about the new series makes it better than the old series? *Kenneth B. Chiacchia, Timothy Liebe, Jim Mann, Tamora Pierce*

10:00pm

**[Oak-LL] The Sex Panel** *Kevin Hayes, Bud Sparhawk, Diane Turnshek*

**[Maple-LL] Video: *Shogun Assassin* (1980)**

10:30pm

**[Redwood-LL] Open Filk**

**Sunday, July 29, 2008**

9:00am

**[Sycamore-ML] Writing Exercises** Bring paper and a pen *Ade Conway, Megan Auffart*

**[Maple-LL] Video: *Cutie Honey* (2004)**

10:00am

**[224/225] Kaffeeklatsch** (Sign up at Registration) *Kathryn Cramer, Charles Oberndorf*

**Dealers Room/PARSEC Sales/Art Show Open**

**[Oak-LL] Arthur C. Clarke: A Look Back** *Stephen C. Fisher, Jim Mann, H. Paul Shuch*

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

10:30am

**[Maple-LL] Video: *The Amazing Screw-on Head* (2006)**

11:00am

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

**[Foyer-ML] Autographing** (ending at 11:30am) *S. C. Butler, Susan Dexter*

**[Salon A-ML] Hard SF and Space Opera: SF's Past and Future** It wasn't that long ago that many thought that hard SF was all but dead and that "space opera" was used as a term of derision. Now, they are the most vital parts of the genre. *David G. Hartwell, Alan Katerinsky, William H. Keith, Paul Melko*

**[Oak-LL] Writing Fantasy, SF, and Horror Poetry** Poetry with fantasy and horror elements has a long tradition and includes such classics as Browning's "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came," De La Mare's "The Listeners," and of course many of the the poems of Poe, Yeats, and others. What are the challenges of writing genre poetry? Does SF poetry have particular challenges? *Tim Esaias, Herb Kauderer, John A. Taylor*

**[Willow-LL] Guest of Honor Reading: Joe Haldeman**

**[Maple-LL] Video: *The Phantom* (1996)**

**[Redwood-LL] Working Your Audience for Fun and Minimal Profit** *Juanita Coulson*

12:00 noon

**[Salon A-ML] Real Life Utopianism** SF as a literature is strongly concerned with utopias and dystopias. How do we individually relate these visions to our real lives? What have we done lately at achieving utopia? *Kathryn Cramer, Joe Haldeman, James Morrow, Kathryn Morrow, Charles Oberndorf*

**[Foyer-ML] Autographing** (ending at 12:30pm) *William Tenn, Tamora Pierce*

**[Walnut] Art Show Closes**

**[Oak-LL] Fortifications 101** *Tim Esaias*

**[Willow-LL] Reading: Diane Turnshek**

**[Redwood-LL] Concert: Darren Zieger**

**12:30pm**

**[Willow-LL] Reading: Michelle (Sagara) West**

**1:00pm**

**[Salon A-ML] Using Real Science in Science Fiction** *Paul Melko, Bud Sparhawk, Diane Turnshek, Mary A. Turzillo*

**[Willow-LL] Reading: William Tenn** reads the introduction to the peculiar history of Robert Bloch's Hugo-winning short story "The Hellbound Train." This introduction will appear in the upcoming anniversary issue of *F&SF*. In addition, he will read an essay about Jules Verne, an author Tenn says he has hated but feels it would be wonderful if Verne dominated today's culture. There will be a Q&A following the readings.

**[Oak-LL] Art Show Auction**

**[Maple-LL] Video: *Tank Girl*** (1995)

**[Redwood-LL] Concert: Marty Coady Fabish**

**2:00pm**

**[Salon A-ML] My Favorite Series: The Best Current Fantasy and SF Series** What are your favorite series—both recent and classic. George Martin's *Song of Ice and Fire*. Lois Bujold's Miles stories? Repairman Jack? What about series you really like that you feel are very underrated? *S. C. Butler, Susan Dexter, Timothy Liebe, Joshua B. Palmatier, Karina Sumner-Smith*

**[Oak-LL] All About Worldcons** What are these large annual SF cons and why should I care? *Laurie Mann and TBA*

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

**[Willow-LL] Reading: Lawrence C. Connolly, John A. Taylor**

**3:00pm**

**[Salon B-ML] Dealers Room/PARSEC Sales Close**

**[Maple-LL] Video: *Appleseed*** (1988)

Confluence Program thanks:

Greg Armstrong for copying the Pocket Program, the Restaurant Guide and loaning the data projector.

See you next year!

Memberships are available for the 2009 Confluence (with GoH John Scalzi), to be held at the Doubletree in Moon Township. Stop by the Registration table on Saturday afternoon or Sunday to purchase your 2009 membership. Check our Web site for information on PARSEC and Confluence: <http://www.parsec-sff.org>.

# Confluence 2008 Program Grids

## Friday Schedule

Time	Program (Willow-LL)	Program (Oak-LL)	Filk (Redwood-LL)	Video (Maple-LL)
4pm		Alpha Starting Points	Gaming in Filk	<i>The Adventures of Superman</i> (1952)
5pm		Alpha Workshop Review	Filk Mad Libs, Volume 2	<i>Superman</i> (1978)
6pm	Aliens Depending on Other Senses	Is the Internet Fungal?	2008 Pegasus Nominations	
7pm	Life in the Universe	Rhyme, Meter, and Language in Fantasy	Concert: Dave Wells	<i>V for Vendetta</i> (2005)
8pm	Landscape of Horror	My Favorite Planet	Tom Smith Parody	
9pm	Trivia for Chocolate	Poetry	Concert: L. Dean	<i>Sin City</i> (2005)
10pm			Concert: J. Coulson	
11pm			Open Filk	

## Sunday Schedule

Time	Program (Salon A-ML)	Program (Willow-LL)	Program (Oak-LL)	Filk (Redwood-LL)	Video (Maple-LL)
9am					<i>Cutie Honey</i> (2004)
10am	Arthur C. Clarke: A Look Back	Reading: T. Pierce			
10:30					
11am	Hard SF and Space Opera	GoH Reading: Joe Haldeman	Writing Fantasy, SF, and Horror Poetry	Working Your Audience	<i>The Phantom</i> (1996)
noon	Real Life Utopianism	Reading: D. Turnshek	Fortifications 101	Concert: D. Zieger	
12:30		Reading: M. S. West			
1pm	Using Real Science	Reading: W. Tenn	Art Show Auction	Concert: M.C. Fabish	<i>Tank Girl</i> (1995)
2pm	Best Current Fantasy & SF Series	Reading: L. C. Connolly, J. A. Taylor	All About Worldcons	Dead Dog Filk	
3pm					<i>Appleseed</i> (1988)

For the Saturday schedule grid, see page 8

# Confluence 2008 Program Grids

## Saturday Schedule

Time	Program (Salon A-ML)	Program (Willow-LL)	Program (Oak-LL)	Filk (Redwood-LL)	Video (Maple-LL)
9am					<i>City Hunter</i> (1993)
10am		Future Trends in Food	This Your 1 <sup>st</sup> Convention?		
11am	SF in the 1970s	Reading: J. Morrow	Bringing a Fantasy or SF Setting to Life	Composing Harmonies Workshop	<i>The Rocketeer</i> (1991)
11:30		Reading: C. Oberndorf			
noon	<i>The Ambassadors</i> vs. Reasons t/b Cheerful	Reading: S. C. Butler	Making Movies in Pittsburgh	Concert: Joe Haldeman	
12:30		Reading: K. Sumner-Smith			
1pm	Critic Guest Talk: The Game of Genre		Osamu Tezuka: Anime Pioneer	Concert: Pete Grubbs	<i>Mystery Men</i> (1999)
1:30					
2pm	SF as a Reflection of Its Time	Reading: P. Melko	Comedy in High Fantasy	Concert: Naomi Pardue	
2:30		Reading: B. Sparhawk			
3pm	Joe Haldeman Guest of Honor Interview				<i>Ghost in the Shell: Stand Alone Complex</i> (2002)
3:30					
4pm	Where Has All The Big Screen SF Gone?	Reading: S. Dexter	Trends in Short Fiction	Sing a Song of SETI	<i>Flash Gordon</i> (1980)
4:30		Reading: D. Barr Kirtley			
5pm	Best Genre and Non- genre Books	Reading: J. B. Palmatier	What's Best?	Concert: Sasafrass	
5:30		Reading: S. A. Swann			
6pm			Critiquing: Goals, Etiquette	No Truce with Kings	<i>Stardust</i> (2007)
7pm					
8pm	Play: <i>Come Back, Dr. Sarcophagus</i>				300 (2006)
8:45	Filk Guest Concert: Lord Landless				
9pm			<i>New Doctor Who</i>		<i>Shogun Assassin</i> (1980)
10pm			The Sex Panel		
10:30				Open Filk	
11pm					

For the Friday and Sunday schedule grids, see page 7