

FanActivity Gazette

Volume 2 Number 9

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News of Fen of Interest to All Fen

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Appropriate Contributions welcome.

Editorial

As may be apparent, some of our major contributors have transferred their attentions to other fannish activities, so in the short run FanActivity Gazette will sadly be thinner than past issues have been. On the bright side, this time we did not lose a writer to the Grim Reaper. We may in a bit rearrange how we handle zines, for example by merging FanActivity Gazette with one of our other sfnal fanzines.

Letter of Comment

Dear Neffers:

So far behind! I expect the January Fan Activity Gazette is about ready to go out, but here are some comments on the November and December issues.

V2#6 Nov. ... Again, a shame about Justin Busch's passing. I think a number of members were just getting to know him, and he is suddenly gone. I hope you can find someone to take on his columns; no one can truly take his place.

My loc...we have already set a lot of our shows for the year, and we will return to the shows we did well at. We also have some shows coming up at which we simply intend to go to and have some fun. We didn't have shows like that in 2022. I am assisting Yvonne with the vendors' hall at Anime North...we have about 60 tables left. Coming up in March, I will be Zoom-interviewed by MonSFFA, the SF club in Montreal, about working on Amazing Stories. Should be some fun, and the folks in Montreal seem very intrigued. I have been able to put forth a new convention list for our mailing list, and I hope Mindy Hunt has been able to get it.

Yvonne shares a birthday with Harry Warner, December 19, so my friend Heath, could you add her in to the master list? Contact me for an exact year.

V2#7 Dec. ... There are so many sites I don't have the time for, but I need to make the time. One of those sites is Fanac.org. So much in there, fanzines, apazines, etc., I wish I had something to help with scanning, but there's very little I have that they might want to scan that hasn't already gone through the process, and like I said at the top, I am so far behind...

Convention list...I didn't know about the Niagara Boardgame Weekend, which is ending as I type, I think. Yesterday, Robert Sawyer marked on Facebook that it was Judith Merrill's 100th birthday. A question for Cathode Ray...is there anywhere outside of a streaming service where I could watch episodes of Lower

Decks and Prodigy? Channels here often mixed up showing times, so it was often impossible to record them with our PVR.

Great feature on Astounding...we often need our distant history to be remembered, or we will surely lose it.

I think I am done for the moment...as soon as the January issue arrives, I will put some time aside, and I should have something more for you, no guarantees. See you then.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Conventions for March Mindy Hunt

Each month we will provide a list of conventions from around the world.

This list is constantly being updated throughout the month. You can find our full events list as well as a calendar at <http://scifi4me.com/conventions-events/>.

During the week, we provide regular updates on our TV channel <http://scifi4me.tv/> with any schedule changes or cancellations. These updates also include any COVID-19 requirements the events are requesting. These requirements are also listed on our calendar for each event.

We are always looking to keep the list and calendar as current as possible. If you know of a local event, big or little, send us and email at events@scifi4me.com so we can add it and make it the most comprehensive conventions list on the internet.

MAR 1-5

VIRTUAL

ON-SITE

Gdakon – Rumia, Poland Mar 1-5

Intercon – Warwick, RI Mar 2-5

SaltCON Spring – Layton, UT Mar 2-5

Horor Realm – Pittsburgh, PA Mar 3-5

CincyCon – Hamilton, OH Mar 3-5

CoastCon – Biloxi, MS Mar 3-5

Creation Atlanta – Atlanta, GA Mar 3-5

Cult Classic Convention – Bastrop, TX Mar 3-5

Hall of Heroes Comic Con – Elkhart, IN Mar 3-5

Made in Asia – Brussels, Belgium Mar 3-5

Alien Con – Pasadena, CA Mar 4-5

FreeCon – Tallahassee, FL Mar 4-5

Hill Country Comic Con – New Braunfels, TX Mar 4-5

La Conve – Monterrey, Mexico Mar 4-5

London Comic Con Spring – London, United Kingdom Mar 4-5

Retro Expo Dallas – Allen, TX Mar 4-5

Tora-Con – Rochester, NY Mar 4-5

Tucson Festival of Books – Tucson, AZ Mar 4-5

Not Just Another Horror Con – Little Rock, AR Mar 4

Dupage Comic Con – Dupage, IL Mar 4

Oddities & Curiosities Expo – Albuquerque, NM Mar 4
Wayne NJ Toy Show – Wayne, NJ Mar 4
Captial Trade Shows – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada Mar 5
Geek Meet Indy – Danville, IN Mar 5
Hollister Toy-Anime-Comic Con – Hollister, CA Mar 5
SW-FloridaCon – Fort Myers, FL Mar 5

Mar 8-13

VIRTUAL

ON-SITE

Dice Tower West – *Las Vegas, NV Mar 8-12
Wild Wild West Steampunk Conventiom – *Tucson, AZ Mar 9-12
Animeverse Fest – *Pasadena, TX Mar 10-12
Cult Classic Convention – Bastrop, TX Mar 3-5
MinamiCon– *Southampton, United Kingdom Mar 10-12
NorthEast Comic Con – *Boxborough, MA Mar 10-12
Dublin Comic Con – *Dublin, Ireland Mar 11-12
WinterCon – New York City, NY Mar 12-13
Annapolis Comic Con – *Annapolis, MD Mar 11
London Comic Mart – London, United Kingdom Mar 13

Mar 16-19

VIRTUAL

ON-SITE

Transworld Halloween & Attractions Show – St Louis, MO Mar 17-20
Angoulême Comic Strip Festival – Angoulême, France Mar 17-20
Collective Con – *Jacksonville, FL Mar 17-19
Leipzig Book Fair – Leipzig, Germany Mar 17-20
Manga-Comic-Con – Leipzig, Germany Mar 17-20
Texas Furry Fiesta – *Dallas, TX Mar 16-19
Sac Comic-Con – *Sacramento, CA Mar 18-19
Fandemic Dead – Atlanta, GA Mar 18-20
Anime Detour – Bloomington, MN Mar 18-20
Clockwork Alchemy – San Jose, CA Mar 18-20
Permian Basin Comic Con – *Midland, TX Mar 17-19
La Mole Comic Con Internacional – *Mexico City, Mexico Mar 17-19
Toronto Comicon – *Toronto, Ontario, Canada Mar 17-19
Oddities & Curiosities Expo – *Houston, TX Mar 18
CT Gamer Con – *Uncasville, CT Mar 18-19
MondoCon – Budapest, Hungary Mar 19-20
NWA Comic Con – Rogers, AR Mar 19-20
Paris Manga Sci-Fi Show – Paris, France Mar 19-20
PlayThrough – *Raleigh, NC Mar 18-19
ClarksvilleCon – *Clarksville, TN Mar 18
London Gaming Market – *London, United Kingdom Mar 19
Vancouver Comicon – *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada Mar 19

MAR 23-26

VIRTUAL

ON-SITE

GameStorm – *Portland, OR Mar 23-26
HerdCon – *Huntington, WV Mar 24-25
BrickUniverse Memphis – *Memphis, TN Mar 25-26
EvilleCon – *Evansville, IN Mar 24-26
GalaxyCon Richmond – *Richmond, VA Mar 24-26
Lexington Comic & Toy Convention – *Lexington, KY Mar 23-26
Hotlead – *Stratford, Ontario, Canada Mar 24-26
HorrorHound Weekend – *Cincinnati, OH Mar 24-26
Steampunk Symposium – Cincinnati, OH Mar 25-27
Zenkaikon – *Lancaster, PA Mar 24-26
LudiNord – *Lille, France Mar 25-26
Oz Comic Con Brisbane – Brisbane, Queensland, Australia Mar 26-27
ToyConNJ – Wayne, NJ Mar 26-27
Oddities & Curiosities Expo – *Dallas, TX Mar 25
Ft-Lauderdalecon – Ft Lauderdale, FL Mar 27
Ontario Collectors Con – Mississauga, Ontario, Canada Mar 27

Science Fiction Pro and Fan Birthdays

This list of fandom-related birthdays was first published by Bruce Pelz in the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. Andrew Porter published and updated the list for Science Fiction Chronicle. Updates are welcome!

Unless stated otherwise, all birthdays are in the 20th century.

March

Wyman Guin, 3/1/15; Michael Kurland, 3/1/38; David Pringle, 3/1/50; Steve Barnes, 3/1/52; Maureen Garrett, 3/1/54; Dave Fox, 3/2/20; Leo Dillon, 3/2/33; Jan Howard Finner, 3/2/39; Arthur Machen, 3/3/1863; Bernie Zuber, 3/4/33; Mike Resnick, 3/5/42; Phil Jennings, 3/5/46; Lawrence Schoonover, 3/6/06; Marjii Ellers, 3/6/18; William F. Nolan, 3/6/28; Edward L. Ferman, 3/6/37; Bill Mallardi, 3/6; Danise Deckert, 3/6/57; Leonard Daventry, 3/7/15; Stanley Schmidt, 3/7/44; Elayne Pelz, 3/7/54; Bengt-Olov Ringberg, 3/8/23; Jim Webbert, 3/8/32; William F. Temple, 3/9/14; Robin Johnson, 3/9/37; Jim Shull, 3/9/52; Jessica Baen, 3/9/77; Theodore Cogswell, 3/10/18.

F.M. Busby, 3/11/21; Ed Meskys, 3/11/36; Harry Harrison, 3/12/25; Jake Waldman, 3/12; Jim Mann, 3/12/55; L. Ron Hubbard, 3/13/11; Diane Dillon, 3/13/33; Michelle Singer, 3/13/44; Algernon Blackwood, 3/14/1869; Mildred Clingerman, 3/14/18; Meade Frierson III, 3/14/40; Julia Ecklar, 3/14/64; Rosel G. Brown, 3/15/26; Al Lewis, 3/15/33; Terry Adamski, 3/16/46; Charles L. Fontenay, 3/17/17; Laurence M. Janifer, 3/17/33; Tullio Proni, 3/18/49; Grant Conan McCormick, 3/18/55; Joe L. Hensley, 3/19/26; Jim Turner, 3/19/45; David Lasser, 3/20/02; Don Miller, 3/20/33; Pamela Sargent, 3/20/48.

Don Markstein, 3/21/47; Sue-Rae Rosenfeld, 3/21/52; Teresa Nielsen Hayden, 3/21/56; Raymond Z. Galun, 3/22/10; John Purcell, 3/22/54; Ethel Lindsay, 3/23/21; Keith Kato, 3/23/50; Richard Brandt, 3/23/57; Marie Louise Ellington, 3/23/58; Maureen Kincaid Speller, 3/23/59; Andrew I. Porter, 3/24/46; Jacqueline Lichtenberg, 3/25/42; G. Harry Stine, 3/26/28; David Lake, 3/26/29; Dick Schultz, 3/26/38; Rachel Holmen, 3/26/45; Gary Mattingly, 3/26/52; Colette Reap, 3/26/54; John Hertz, 3/27/49; Kevin J. Anderson, 3/27/62; A.

Bertram Chandler, 3/28/12; Davey Snyder, 3/28/58; Lilia Fung, 3/28/63; Bob Buechley, 3/29; Art Henderson, 3/29/42; Lucy Lawless, 3/29/68; Chad Oliver, 3/30/28; Dennis Etchison, 3/30/43; Fred Whitley, 3/31/15; John Jakes, 3/31/32; Janice Gelb, Scott Edelman, 3/31/55; David Bratman, 3/31/57.

Elayne Pelz

Born in Los Angeles, Elayne Pelz married Bruce Pelz in 1974 and became active in the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, running cons. She was elected treasurer for the Institute for Specialized Literature in 1975, joined the board of directors in 1980, and also joined the board of Southern California Institute for Fan Interests. She is currently executive Secretary of the Institute for Specialized Literature and Gallifrey One's finance director.

In 1983, she was recognized as a guest of honor at LepreCon 9. She and Bruce were also guests of honor at Loscon 13th in 1986 and Kubla Khansequences in 1988. Pelz was also a fan guest of honor at Westercon 48 in Portland, Oregon, in 1995. She received the Evans-Freehafer Award in 1980, 2006, and 2014.

When her husband died in 2002 while chairing Congarie, the 55th Westercon, Elayne succeeded him in that position. She remains active in running cons, often working registration. (Though she's also staffed art shows and treasury.) She has worked on Worldcons, Loscons, Gallifrey One, Corflu, anime cons, the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association's Nebula Conference, and others. As Chris Marble said during a LASFS meeting in late 2022, "If she's involved in it, it will not suck."

Pelz currently serves on the LASFS board of directors and in a number of other appointed roles. She manages the LASFS directory. Unfortunately, her cat Scrabble died in the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

She also enjoys traveling with other people, including group outings to county fairs and Disneyland. Her needlework often wins awards.

Jacqueline Lichtenberg

To learn more about fellow Neffer Jacqueline Lichtenberg, refer to the member spotlight written by Heath Row and Jon D. Swartz in *The National Fantasy Fan* Vol. 10 #2 (June 2010), <https://tinyurl.com/TheFan-v10n2>.

To update this list, contact Heath Row at kalel@well.com via email with the subject "Science Fiction Pro and Fan Birthdays" or something similar.

The brief profile of Pelz originally appeared in slightly different form in *Telegraphs & Tar Pits* #48.



The first issue of *Weird Tales* appeared, dated March, 1923, the premiere issue of what was to become a legendary publication devoted to supernatural and fantastic fiction. Subtitled “The Unique Magazine”, *Weird Tales* carried a wide assortment of unusual fantastic stories, including generous amounts of science fiction.

Founded by J.C. Henneberger and J.M. Lasinger, successful pulp magazine author Edward Baird was the first editor. Baird, accepted material by H.P. Lovecraft, Clark Ashton Smith, and Seabury Quinn, all of whom became regular contributors of the magazine, but the publication lost money heavily during his year as editor. Lasinger sold his interest to Henneberger who immediately fired Baird, and offered the editor’s job to Lovecraft. Lovecraft refused, and the job fell to Baird’s assistant, Farnsworth Wright.

Wright was faced with a formidable task; somehow saving a magazine that has lost over forty thousand dollars in its first year of existence. He changed the tone of the magazine emphasizing supernatural horror, dramatically improved the quality of the cover illustrations, and also initiated a policy of slow payment, with checks cut for writers weeks or even months after their stories had appeared in print. This seriously upset many authors, but Wright also changed

Weird Tales into a prestige publication read and discussed in elite literary circles well beyond the realms of pulp magazines.

Wright wanted strong well written tales, but he also insisted on a wide variety of stories in each issue, which meant he sometimes accepted short stories of questionable quality to fill space and maintain the balance.

Sales of *Weird Tales* were never strong, and suffered steady declines during the Great Depression despite its near cult status. By the end of the 1930s Wright’s policies had whittled down the magazines deficit dramatically, but the owner sold *Weird Tales* to Short Stories Inc. in 1938. The new owners insisted on even harsher austerity measures to make the publication more profitable. This led to some artists and writers abandoning the magazine, but the title’s cult status with both stf fans and the literary elite meant there was no shortage of material from interested authors.

Wright had contracted Parkinson’s Disease in 1921. His health declined steadily to the point where he was forced to resign in 1940 due to his much worsened condition (he died a few months later). Dorothy McIlwraith, who had been editing *Short Stories Magazine* also became editor of *Weird Tales*. Despite a lower budget, and a publisher directive not to publish any sexy or “nasty” stories, McIlwraith was able to keep the magazine going and at least marginally profitable. The pulp market changed with WWII placing severe restrictions on paper, printing, and transportation facilities, but somehow she was able to keep *Weird Tales* going and on schedule where other magazines faltered. The magazine survived until September 1954 against strong competition from paperback books and television that was decimating the fiction magazine industry. *Short Stories* became mostly reprints before changing to a men’s action slick in 1957, and finally folded in 1959.

There have been many attempts to revive *Weird Tales* over the years since 1954. None of them were particularly successful, but the legend lives on. Most of the material from the original run has been reprinted and much of it remains in print. Its authors have themselves become literary legends, and the legend of the Unique Magazine still continues to attract curious new readers each year.

Those who are interested in a more detailed history of *Weird Tales* are advised to check the lengthy and well researched article about the magazine on Wikipedia.

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Peanut Butter Lovers Day	2 Old Stuff Day	3 If Pets Had Thumbs Day	4 Hug A G.I. Day
5 Multiple Personality Day	6 National Oreo Cookie Day	7 National Cereal Day	8 National Proofreading Day	9 Popcorn Lover's Day	10 International Find a Pay Phone Booth Day	11 Johnny Appleseed Day
12 Oscar Awards Night for 2023	13 Ear Muff Day	14 National Potato Chip Day	15 Ides of March	16 Everything You Do Is Right Day	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18 Awkward Moments Day
19 Let's Laugh Day	20 Extraterrestrial Abductions Day	21 Tea For Two Tuesday	22 National Goof Off Day	23 Melba Toast Day	24 National Cheesesteak Day	25 Peacan Nut Day
26 Live Long And Prosper Day	27 National "Joe" Day	28 Weed Appreciation Day	29 Smoke And Mirros Day	30 Take A Walk In The Park Day	31 Bunsen Burner Day	