

## PARSEC Meeting Schedule

### February 2005

Date: February 12th 2005 - 2 PM  
Topic: Rene Kruse of the Mon Valley Ghost Research Society  
Location: Allegheny Branch of Carnegie Library

### March 2005

Date: March 12th 2005 - 2 PM  
Topic: Confluence Program Topics  
Location: Allegheny Branch of Carnegie Library

### April 2005

Date: April 9th 2005 - 2 PM  
Topic: Dr. Eric Davin presents "Weird Sisters: Women and Weird Tales Magazine, 1923-1954."  
Location: Allegheny Branch of Carnegie Library

Please note that the February through April Parsec meetings are at the Allegheny Regional branch of the Carnegie Library. Allegheny Regional is approximately 1 mile north of Downtown Pittsburgh. Situated in Allegheny Center in the Central North Side neighborhood, Allegheny Regional lies just behind Allegheny Center immediately beside the old Buhl Planetarium. For Directions please refer to the Parsec web site: <http://www.parsec-sff.org/meet.html>

### PARSEC

The Pittsburgh Area's Premiere Science-Fiction Organization  
P.O. Box 3681, Pittsburgh, PA 15230-3681

President - Kevin Geiselman      Vice President - Sarah Wade-Smith  
Treasurer - Greg Armstrong      Secretary - Joan Fisher  
Commentator - Ann Cecil

Website: <http://www.parsec-sff.org>

Meetings - Second Saturday of every month.

Dues: \$10 full member, \$2 Supporting member

Sigma is edited by David Brody  
Send article submissions to: [sigma@spellcaster.org](mailto:sigma@spellcaster.org)



# SIGMA

The Newsletter of PARSEC • February 2005 • Issue 227





## View From the Top

The President's Column - Kevin Geiselman

Weird things happened in my apartment when I was going to Pitt. During one particular weekend, my roommates were away and I had the apartment to myself. Upon returning from the store I heard an odd sound. It was almost background noise, like voices at a distant party, and it was difficult to localize. Eventually I traced the sound to the stereo which was on and turned to its highest volume but was not set to any specific station. If it was, it would have blown out the speakers.

If it was, it would have blown out the speakers.

I hadn't left the stereo on when I left. It wasn't my stereo so I never touched it. None of my roommates had come back to town in the meantime. Stereos do not spontaneously power on, move off frequency and turn themselves up to the highest volume.

There were a number of other strange things that went on involving objects being moved, phones being taken off the hook and blinds being opened. We could come up with no logical explanation. If someone were breaking into our apartment (with a key, apparently), why weren't they stealing the stereo, tape players, computer or the rifle in the closet? If it were some practical joke by a friend it didn't seem to go anywhere or have any sort of dramatic climax. If someone were trying to frighten us, they weren't doing a very good job.

Was our apartment haunted? I am too much of a skeptic to put a name like "ghost" to the unexplained occurrences. There was no evidence to say what was actually happening and logical speculation cannot prove anything one way or the other.

Carl Sagan said, "extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence." There are a number of shows on TV now that purport to show proof but, to my eyes, their evidence is something less than "extraordinary." They rely on sensationalism and fast-cut video presentation and the "ghost hunters" seem far too ready to accept a spot of light on a monitor as proof of a haunting instead of looking at it as an anomaly that could just as easily be a glitch on the video tape.

So, at this month's meeting we will have Rene Kruse, founding member of the Mon Valley Ghost Research Society. Holding a PhD in Applied Engineering, Rene is much more likely to be applying the scientific method to these mysterious happenings than the SciFi Channel's revenue-minded producers. Is the evidence really extraordinary or merely suggestive and intriguing? Come to the Allegheny Branch of the Carnegie Library to find out.

**FANTASY — HORROR — SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION  
APRIL 22-23-24, 2005**

# EerieCon Seven

**GUESTS OF HONOR:**

**Allen Steele   Steven Brust   Julie Czerneda**

**WITH A HOST OF OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS**

**including**

Anne Bishop \* Marilyn Mattie Brahen \* Carolyn Clink \* David Clink  
David DeGraff \* James Alan Gardner \* Mark A. Garland \* Lois Gresh  
Derwin Mak \* Will McDermott \* John-Allen Price \* Robert J. Sawyer  
Darrell Schweitzer \* Dr. David G. Stephenson \* Edo van Belkom  
and others to be announced

Some of the events now scheduled:

**GAME ROOM  
24-HOUR-A-DAY VIDEO ROOM  
ART SHOW AND ART AUCTION  
HOSPITALITY ROOM (complimentary snacks & beverages)  
PEOPLE AND THING AUCTION  
MUSIC BY OOKLA  
LATE NIGHT TALK SHOW FEATURING OUR GUESTS  
MIDNIGHT PARTY FOR GUESTS (EVERYONE INVITED)  
AUTHORS READING FROM THEIR OWN WORK  
CHEESE NOODLE SCULPTURE CONTEST  
WHAT LINE'S MINE (A NASTY GAME SHOW FOR AUTHORS)  
LECTURES AND PANELS (INCLUDING WRITERS WORKSHOPS)  
AUTHORS WILL BE SIGNING BOOKS IN THE DEALER ROOM**

Weekend memberships are \$35 each until March 26, 2005; \$40 after that date and at the door.  
DISCOUNTS FOR STUDENTS (BRING YOUR I.D.)  
One-day memberships are also available at the door.

**EERIECON SEVEN will be held at:**

**Days Inn at the Falls, 443 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14301.**

Telephone: (716) 284-8801      FAX (905) 374-7338

Please

**RESERVE YOUR ROOMS AHEAD OF TIME AND DO IT AT LEAST A MONTH BEFORE THE CON.**  
(Mention Eeriecon when you make your reservation or you will pay a higher rate!)

Con rates are: single/double \$75; triple \$85; quad \$95.

**For further information including the complete guest-list, please go to our website at:**  
<http://www.eeriecon.org>

Questions?? Want to get on our mailing list for the January progress report?  
Please write to our PO box or email us at: [eeriecon@juno.com](mailto:eeriecon@juno.com)

**Buffalo Fantasy League, P O Box 412, Buffalo NY 14226**

SFWA, the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America.

I'm the Eastern Regional Director, so I was hoping to get someone in the Eastern Region to help me. Do you have any unusual artwork that could be made into greeting cards: Planetscapes, rocket ships, robots, fantasy creatures like dragons, elves, etc? I've bought lots of cards from Zazzle.com, and I like them, but they're over \$2.00 each and I was hoping for a significantly lower price.

Blank inside is fine, but how much would a line of text add? Something simple like "Welcome to SFWA" either on the front or inside. I don't care about the size or shape as long as it takes only one, regular, first-class postage stamp. The envelopes could be white or colored. I could probably find my own envelopes, if necessary. I'm looking for something classy, but I'm not too fussy about exactly what it is. And I'm not looking for an exclusive. It doesn't matter to me if lots of people use the same cards.

You could certainly use the back of the card for an advertisement for your work. Some of the people I have to send them to are in the publishing industry, so you might get a lucky break if they notice your work.

I guess the main issue is price, really. Can you give me an estimate for a boxed set of 100 full color cover greeting cards, with or without that one line of text, and for either white or colored envelopes? I need to do this soon, so, say an estimate by the end of February and cards by the end of March? (Or sooner, if at all possible.)

Diane Turnshek  
504 Donatello Drive  
Irwin, PA 15642  
turnshek@yahoo.com

- Larry Ivkovich was a semi-finalist for the 4th quarter, 2004 Writers of the Future contest. He'll be receiving a certificate of Honorable Mention and a critique by one of the judges - author K.D. Wentworth. He is one happy camper.

## Notes From the Maintenance Department

The Editor's Column - David Brody

This month's issue was particularly rushed, so my apologies in advance for any errors, omissions, etc... Part of the problem was personal, but much had to do with a winter shortage of submissions. Let's hope that as temperatures rise, PARSEC members will feel more inclined to review their favorite book or movie or TV show. I know that I'm not the only opinionated member of our little group.

In the end, some last minute contributions left me with more material than space, so a couple of things had to be saved for the next issue, but the substance of Sigma is its readers and their ideas, so limber up those fingers and start typing.

You'll also have noticed that I've run out of room for my latest political rant. (Audible sighs of relief all around.) I have, however, managed to encapsulate my feelings in the quote from the "greatest science fiction writer of all time" on the bottom of page 3. The other quote is for someone special. Kiss, kiss.



## Reviews

### Marque and Reprisal

by Elizabeth Moon

Reviewed by Ann Cecil

Books by Elizabeth Moon are never dull, but with a term like *Marque* in the title - conjuring up images of privateers, piracy, space battles - you can confidently expect plenty of action. With *Marque and Reprisal* Moon does not disappoint!

Kylara Vatta is a young, pretty, inexperienced, and bloodthirsty member of an old and wealthy trading family. Having (in a previous book) flunked out of the Spaceship Academy, sent off in command of the spaceship equivalent of a tired tramp steamer, put down a mutiny, killed some bad guys, and made a profit on her misadventures, she is trying to decide whether her future really lies in the family business, or whether she should go find some mercenaries to join. While she thinks about that, she drags her ship into port to deliver its cargo, and discovers very rapidly and explosively that someone has declared war on the Vatta Trading Empire, and plans to take her out along with the rest of the family. Needless to say, she fights back.

Part of the fascination in this book is the expansion beyond Ky's point of view; we see what's happening to Vattas back in the corporate headquarters, as they are hit in a surprise attack, and on other planets where individual family members are stranded. Moon works in some keen observations about how character is formed, and what can happen in a strong family to deceive even the individual about their own strengths.

Of course the action never stops; Ky manages first to survive, and then to start the fight back. It turns out the title refers to our heroine: someone back on her home planet has sent her a 'letter of marque' (that's authorization to go play Sir Francis Drake and rob your enemies). I suspect there is a sequel in the offing, because the book ends with a number of threads still hanging loose, as Ky finally manages to get a ship that can get up some speed, and support some armament (you can't be a pirate - uh, privateer - in a garbage scow).

It's all great fun, if not particularly deep (though Moon is clearly working up to some kind of character revelation to balance her heroine's bloodthirstiness). A recommended fun read.

## Quotes of the Month

"Speaking the truth in times of universal deceit is a revolutionary act."

George Orwell

When infuriated by an outrageous column, do not be suckered into responding with an abusive e-mail. Pundits so targeted thumb through these red-faced electronic missives with delight, saying "Hah! Got to 'em."

William Safire

# Confluence 2005 Update - Part One

## Filk by Randy Hoffman

For the first in a series of Confluence updates, Ann Cecil has asked me to give Parsec members a look at how the filk track at Confluence is shaping up. Somehow this article turned into a tutorial on exactly how I go about putting a filk track together...not sure how that happened, but I think it turned out pretty well anyway.

When I follow my usual M.O., which I've mostly done this year, the first thing I try to do is invite and confirm a Featured Filk Guest ("FFG" for short) to perform for up to 90 minutes on the main stage on Saturday night after the play and poetry reading are over. What I look for in an FFG is a person or group that is (a) extremely talented both in terms of performance and songwriting, (b) uses at least some science fiction, fantasy, or horror themes in their music, (c) might be willing to come to Pittsburgh for the relatively meager recompense we can offer, and (d) hasn't performed often (or, usually, ever) at a Northeast or Midwest convention. In past years I used these criteria to select Heather Rose Jones (California), Kenny Young and the Eggplants (NYC pro musicians), Nancy Louise Freeman (Arizona), and Chris Conway (UK), who were all terrific FFGs. This year our invitation was accepted by Oregon filk group *Escape Key* (<http://www.cyphertext.net/escapekey/>), a fabulous trio whose songs are being covered by a lot of other filkers and whose first CD, *Shadowbeast*, is garnering a lot of acclaim. It's unfortunately probable that only two members of the group will be able to join us, but even so, I'm sure they'll put on a great concert.

Once the FFG is solid, I turn my attention to filling the slots for the 50-minute concerts that will be held in the main filk room on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. This year, two slots were filled without my needing to lift a finger. (Gotta love it when that happens.) Pete Grubbs, our esteemed and inestimably wonderful sound man (who is also a marvelous singer, songwriter, and guitarist) does a concert here every year, and one of last year's scheduled performers, Philly-area pro Barry Peterson, wasn't able to make it to the con in 2004, so I rolled over his invitation to this year. Barry's attendance this July is contingent on numerous factors, but with luck we'll get to hear him this time around. His CD, *Champ: The Satire & Parodies of Barry Peterson, by Barry Peterson and the Mutts of Santo Bernardo Di Lassi* (whose title and cover art are themselves parodies of the popular "Chant" album of several years ago), is hard to find but lots of fun.

On to the remaining 50-minute slots. When I invite acts to perform for these, I use a set of criteria similar to the one I use to select potential FFGs. Are they reasonably good performers? Do they have enough material to fill a 50-minute set? If they don't have many (or any) SF/F/H songs in their repertoire, do they at least do the kind of songs that fans tend to enjoy (witty, offbeat, thoughtful, and/or amusing)? Have they ever had a concert here before? If so, were they good? If not, have they had a concert at any convention before? (I like hosting debut concerts.) And where do they hail from? When possible, I try to invite at least one local performer, plus at least one performer from each geographic area within reasonable range of where a relatively high concentration of filkers lives: the Midwest (Michigan, Indiana, Ohio), the Northeast (Maryland, eastern PA, New York, New England), the Southeast (Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina), and Ontario. I do this "geographic gathering" for two reasons. First, you get to hear songs and styles from several different areas and "filk cultures" all in

# Announcements & Stuff

- TRIANGULATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE APPROACHING! The last day of February is the deadline for submitting stories for consideration to be published in *Triangulation 2005* (coming out in July). See guidelines at the bottom of the page on: <http://www.parsec-sff.org/publishing.html>.

- Call for Artists: The newly formed Parsec Calendar Group, working in cooperation with Parsec Ink Publishing, will be publishing a Parsec SF/F/H art calendar. We need artwork from Parsec artists. More details are available at: <http://www.parsec-sff.org/calendar.html>.

- Randy Hoffman will be one of the six or so musical acts featured in The Threepenny Opry acoustic performance showcase at The Starlite Lounge in Blawnox on the nights of Saturday, March 5, and Saturday, May 7. There is no cover charge. Children are welcome if accompanied by a parent or guardian, although some songs might contain adult content. The show starts at 8:00 PM, but it's best to get a seat by 7:45. The show is followed by an informal song-swap in which everyone is invited to participate (so feel free to bring a guitar or other reasonably sized acoustic instrument).

- (From Diane Turnshek) There is a young Florida man named Alex Ramos who is 22 years old and has been a quadriplegic since he was 8. He loves to read SF/F, but he's on a ventilator, so he can only read when somebody turns the pages for him. The Miami Herald wrote an article about him and set up a fund to get him a page turner (which costs nearly \$4000). He reads a book a day when he can.

Anyone can donate to Alex's fund via [www.heraldwishbook.com](http://www.heraldwishbook.com). (You have to specify that the money is for him.) Heidi has graciously offered to supply Alex with a monthly Sigma by donating a PARSEC membership. Thanks!

SFWA author Adam-Troy Castro has volunteered to be the initial contact point. He thinks it would be best to send any donated books or magazines to him, so he can take them up to the facility where Alex is staying. Adam-Troy tries to visit weekly. His contact information is:

Alex Ramos  
c/o Adam-Troy Castro  
7670 SW 152 Ave. Apt 106  
Miami FL 33193  
[adam-troy@sff.net](mailto:adam-troy@sff.net)

I propose that if PARSEC people wish to donate books, they send them to Adam directly or give them to me and I'll get them to Adam. I'll be at the March PARSEC meeting. Can we weed our collections out a bit and find a few books for me to send to Alex?

- (Also from Diane) Can I grab the attention of a local SF/F artist? I could use some help. Do I have someone's attention? Good. Let me tell you what I need and then you can decide whether or not it's something you'd be interested in making up for me. I have to send about a hundred cards a year to new members of

Kira then showed, as her own work, the graphic and signature on her laptop, and talked about the computer aids she used to create it. She also showed her font: letter brush italic, which now has all the letters but no punctuation. For her last presentation, she showed this year's PARSEC membership cards, which were done with a vector program called Expression. Her theme was inspired by the new by-laws, since we are now a constellation of groups.

Chris Hutson held up pairs of bug drawings, and asked the audience to guess: which was created by nature, and which invented by her? She then explained the details of what to look for, as well as what the real bugs are. Chris next showed samples of parchment, on which she limns paintings (she explained that limning is a process, not result), as well as samples of paints that she makes herself. She also talked about her calligraphy; she does invitations for the Baseball Hall of Fame dinner. She finished by showing a photo of a plant on which she had put a gummy eyeball, to make an alien creature.

Bonnie Funk showed a progression of her work, starting with an oil painting, acrylic, and pencil illustrations. Last summer she worked at both Idlewild and the Renaissance Festival doing portraits in charcoal and colored pencil; these were done in 15 to 20 minutes, from life. She then segued into her portfolio of her digital work: websites and pages done in Illustrator, with page layout in Quark.

Barbara Carlson showed off her alien creatures, made from polymer clay. Most of the designs are small; some are bugs. Barb explained that she has tried to make scary gargoyles like creatures, but most of her efforts, no matter how hard she tries, come out cute.

Andrew Plotkin showed off a series of Rubik's cubes with alternate designs substituted for the colors. One had colored paths, another had stairs, and one was from the game *Colossal Cave*. The coolest was one with temperature sensitive film.

Philip Sauter brought his computer and a data projector. He started by showing Insect Explorer, a game he created working with photos from bugs at the Carnegie. Then he went into the PMS Design software for Virtual Reality. He showed how to make an alien, using the software Director and Shockwave, and how to develop a game. He also showed off various virtual environments, a castle, a city, and mechs.

Sasha then showed some of her own artwork, three pieces from her high school courses, and more current sketches and drawings. She showed character sketches from her potential web comic, and some colored designs and drawings.

Henry Tjernlund finished off the program by showing his new work, which included a portfolio of 3D artwork, including architectural drawings, some stereograms, some school logos, and portraits. He showed several matted prints that he had in a community college art show that were fairly large, and then a booklet of very small prints that are his current work, trying more for photo-realism, with special depth of field filters. Most of those were done in Cinema 4D. Henry has been getting back into oil painting, and showed a painting of Geis as a Klingon.

Bob Dundes won the raffle and carried off the bug painting that Chris Hutson had donated earlier for her membership.

A group of eleven went off to the Sharp Edge after the meeting.

one place; Pittsburgh's "crossroads" location presents a very unusual opportunity to bring together representatives of distinct regional filk fandoms that don't often mix elsewhere. Second, I figure that if you invite one person from a given location, you increase the odds that other people from that area will tag along and come to the con. (A mercenary calculation, but one that has sometimes proven fruitful!)

With those considerations in mind, here are the other people who have, up to this point, accepted invitations to perform in our 50-minute slots for 2005. "Guitar ninja" Joe Giacoio, who performed his filk debut concert at Confluence in 2001, is finally able to return and play for us again. Because he teaches guitar at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival in New York, which is always the fourth weekend of July, he hasn't been able to come to the last few Confluences. He's excited to be rejoining us, although it might be a bit of an anticlimax after his co-GoH appearance with Carla Ulbrich at the filk convention Contata in Secaucus, NJ, on June 24-26 (<http://www.contata.org>). The title track of his CD *Superman's Mid-Life Crisis* was deservedly nominated for a Pegasus Award (<http://www.ovff.org/pegasus.html>) last year.

Arlene "Callie" Hills, half of the highly celebrated filk duo *Echo's Children* (<http://www.echoschildren.org>), will be here to perform as well, hopefully bringing her amazing bass flute along. She lives in Oregon and knows Confluence only by the strength of our reputation...which seems to be mighty fine. (Yay!) Make her feel welcome and appreciated, folks! Who knows...maybe we can get more transcontinental guests to pop in! You can get *Echo's Children's* fabulous Pegasus-winning music on any of four CDs and/or a songbook.

Robert B. Cooke will be coming up from Cordelia, Georgia, to do a concert. He's a more traditional filker than some of our other guests, but that doesn't mean that his songs are long and dull; far from it! Robert writes smart, engaging material that you're going to love! (Geez...I sound like an infomercial...)

Even though there are hardly any SF or fantasy themes in his music, local acoustic singer/songwriter/guitarist Jack Erdie will still knock your socks off. His songs are so literate and deft, and he's such an electrifying performer even in a casual small-group setting, that I had to invite him to the con. Hopefully you'll enjoy him as much as I do!

So that's six concerts in the bank, plus the FFG; other invitations are outstanding and haven't been accepted or declined yet. (Each year I keep trying to schedule fewer than ten concerts and I just never manage it; there are simply too many super-duper musicians out there, and I can hardly restrain myself from inviting them all!) That leaves a tiny number of 50-minute slots for panels, contests, and other miscellany: five at most, with two on Sunday after the concert schedule ends. Each year I try to think up new and interesting things for filkers to do or talk about, especially if we can also involve some of the authors and artists from the more literary side of the con, from which the filk side can seem completely separate at times. I'm not always successful in this (the "Got Them SF Blues" panel that tried to come up with SF/F/H references in blues music and vice versa was one of the flops that comes to mind...what was I thinking?).

There you have it: a filk track in progress. Will it be better than the fairly stellar tracks of 2003 and 2004? It's hard to tell. One thing's for sure, though; it will be a key piece of our all-around-great little con.

# Space in 2005: A Look Ahead

Henry Tjernlund

(Editor's note: Your addle-pated editor left Henry's latest astronomy report out of the January issue. I'm printing it here because of the valuable information it contains, but obviously some of the events it refers to have already happened. (Can you dig those Huygens pix!)

Several projects are gearing up for 2005. Here are some of them (again, in no particular order.)

The Cassini mission to Saturn is scheduled to fly-by one or another moon of that gas giant almost every month of 2005. Titan will be the most often inspected moon as it is the only other body in the solar system besides Venus that has a thick hazy atmosphere. Cassini's special cameras can only see through that haze when looking straight down through it and therefore only a small portion of the surface is imaged on each fly-by. Titan will be flown past in Jan., Feb. Mar., Apr. Aug., Sep., and Oct. Other moons of Saturn will be similarly flown past and imaged as well; Enceladus in Mar., May, and July; Hyperion in Sep.; Dione in Oct.; and Rhea in November. Cassini will also release the attached Huygens probe on Christmas Eve 2004 for a much-anticipated landing on Titan's surface Jan 14, 2005.

Well, Cassini is not the only game in our solar neighborhood. The Deep Impact mission is planned for a January launch and later a July 4th fly-by and impactor sensor event with Comet Tempel 1.

In August the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter is scheduled to be launched as the next US mission to that planet. Although it will only be an orbital imaging mission it should return the highest resolution images, once it arrives in its target orbit at the red planet in the later half of 2006. Additionally this mission will have a shallow radar imager for looking for sub-surface ice, water, and other underground features.

For human flight, the Space Shuttle is hoped to make a return to flight in early to mid 2005. At the present all future Shuttle launches are being limited to only the International Space Station assembly and crew exchange missions.

Of course, the US is not the only player around. In early to mid 2005 China is expected to make another human space flight launch of its Shenzhou capsule vehicle. This next mission is expected to have a crew of two that are to spend several days in orbit.

The 26 member nations of the European Space Agency (ESA) are conducting meetings to better coordinate limited resources and plan future developments. In January, ESA's SMART-1 ion engine technology demonstrator vehicle will settle into its final orbit around the Moon. The craft does have some mineral mapping and other scientific instrumentation. The Huygens probe (previously mentioned) is the ESA component to the Cassini mission to Saturn. Other than these two January events the missions schedule for the ESA seems to be mostly commercial communications satellite launches, weather and other Earth/Sun observing missions.

2005 looks to be a moderately active year for space missions as several current missions continue and a few new ones begin. Hopefully world conflicts will subside and populations and governments will see space exploration as a valuable activity once again.

# February Minutes

Ann Cecil



PARSEC collected at the East Liberty branch of the Carnegie Library on January 8, for the first meeting of 2005. Unfortunately the church group which meets on the other side of the curtain was invigorated by the new year and began with several long, off-key hymns.

The meeting was brought to order by President Kevin Geiselman, who announced that PARSEC would be meeting somewhere else until Squirrel Hill finishes its renovations. He is investigating the newly redecorated Homewood branch, to be sure there is parking there. Watch your SIGMAs for the location of the next several meetings.

Next announcements:

- Dues are due: PARSEC operates on a calendar year and it is January.
  - John Schmid announced that we now have liability coverage for PARSEC and Confluence, as a side effect of getting the coverage for Alpha; it turned out to be cheap to make it extend for the whole year.
    - Treasurer's Reports: Greg Armstrong gave a Nov & Dec report: \$161 made. He also gave the annual report: \$62 positive for the year. He listed the big expenses: postage on top, short story contest, Triangulation authors.
    - John Schmid reported for Confluence (~\$100 in the red) and Alpha (which did not break even).
    - There was a discussion about publicity for Confluence: Sasha Riley and Bonnie Funk semi-volunteered to help with this, with Sasha coordinating. Bonnie has a database.
    - Barb and Ann talked about Triangulation and the Short Story Contest respectively. There was a short discussion about the singularity of the name (Triangulation or Triangulations).
    - Henry Tjernlund announced the PARSEC art calendar project. The plan is to have it done for Confluence. Other members of the group doing this are Karen Lun-Yutz, Kira Heston, Bonnie Funk, and Kevin Hayes, so far.
    - Kira talked about her on-line directory, and asked for people to send her information. She has set up a small database on the parsec-talk yahoo site.
    - Judi Galardi had another book come out last month: *Psycho Poetry* and *Shadows in Time* (in one volume).
    - Barton Levenson had a short story accepted for the anthology: Travel Guide to the Haunted Mid-Atlantic Region.
- Sasha Riley moderated the PARSEC Art Show and Tell.
- First up was Kira Heston, who was representing herself and her husband, Keith, who chose gaming over PARSEC. Keith's entry was a chain mail tunic. He won 3rd place in the costume contest at the Pittsburgh Renaissance Festival last year. She also showed a wooden carved unicorn that Keith carved from a picture done by Kira.