

Programming

"The best piece of programming I attended at Minicon was a panel, or rather a lecture, by Karyn Ashburn 'Is there a fannish accent?'... It truly was the most interesting lecture or panel I've ever attended, and I can't recommend her too highly."

—Cally Soukup

"I'd given up on expecting a rational discussion of 'The Cold Equations' — and Minicon 34 had one."

—Dan Goodman

"I enjoyed programming. In what I consider to be perfect 'con' pattern, I would attend a few panels early on in the afternoon, intend to go to some others, and get distracted by a fascinating conversation. My only suggestion would be, well, an irritatingly vague one. I liked the depth of discussion at each panel, but I would like to see a bit more — well, variety. A larger proportion of science, for a start. I did like the variety of media covered in the panels."

—Sigrid Ellis

Our thanks and enthusiasm to everyone who's already sent in suggestions and their requests for programming participation info. We've received ideas for discussing everything from giants to girl power (anime style), the roots of fantasy, the aging of new writers, and the fannish food pyramid, with interesting stops and digressions along the way. If you've written to us, you can expect to hear back during February and March, as we put this year's program together. Here's a quick preview of what to expect:

Traditions Old and New

Minicon favorites include Jane Yolen's Bedtime Stories, with the requisite milk and cookies, and John M. Ford's "Ask Dr. Mike," with stranger ingredients. Mark Olson returns with the NESFA trivia contest, complete with flying prizes, and Gordy Dickson plans to regale us with tales from a lifetime in sf and the earlier days of fandom.

We'll be spotlighting our Guests of Honor, of course. Gender, identity, and cultural transformations à la Maureen F. McHugh. The eclectic fascinations of Lenny Bailes. Hard sf through an impressionistic paintbrush — John Berkey's approach to book covers, movie posters, and more.

Children's Programming returns, with Laura Jean Fish coordinating castle building and related sf & fantasy activities throughout the weekend. Parents, please accompany children who are under age 10 or who otherwise need individual supervision.

The Year in Science is expanding to two hours, per suggestions received last year. Mitch Bentley and Bill Roper have both volunteered to encourage fans to trade money (and more money!) for art at the Saturday night art auction. Plus new readings, author's roundtables, provocative panels and more — what will we all be talking about after the convention this year?

"Ptaw. Ptaw. Dance. Boogie."

If you've got a Furby, bring it to Minicon for the first ever (and only, we hope) Minicon Furby Dance. How many consecutive loud sounds will it take to get all of the Furbies dancing? What will happen after that? And just how many Furbies will talk to each other during the set breaks? (ID stickers available in case your Furby becomes paralyzed with delight and forgets who it is. Fresh batteries encouraged.)

Scheduled music performances return with the Event Horizon (see Hospitality, page 10), and filkers are welcome to play late into the night in the Marquette Room after the last programming item scheduled there each day.

And we're just getting started....

Already, over 60 writers, editors, publishers, artists, scientists, former GoHs, musicians, listeners, readers, viewers, and fans have expressed

interest in being on Minicon programming. We hope you will, too. There's also still time to send in your programming ideas, though we're definitely in "the sooner, the better" part of the time-frame. Email is fast — please write to <programming@minicon35.mnsth.org>. Otherwise, send us a letter but do include a phone number and times when we can reach you. Thanks!

Mark Time Award Presenters

By Jerry Stearns



Presenters for the 2000 Mark Time Awards for Best Science Fiction Audio Production, and for the Ogle Awards for Best Horror/Fantasy Audio, will be Orson and David Ossman.

David is one of the founders of the Mark Time Awards, and has substantial credentials as a member of the legendary Firesign Theatre, and as an audio writer and director. Orson Ossman was recently cast in a new work by Norman Corwin (the "Stephen Spielberg of radio"), and played scenes with Walter Cronkite. He is a very affable 11 years old. We are pleased to have David Ossman join his son, because this may be the last time he is able to come given the increase in his work schedule since he started coming to Minicons a few years ago.

Judges for this year's Awards are Jerry Stearns, Philip Proctor, Brian Price, Kara Dalkey and Richard Fish.

For those who would like to submit their work for consideration in the Mark Time/Ogle competition, you can see the Mark Time web site at <http://www.mtn.org/~jstearns/MarkTime.html>, or call Jerry at 612-722-2907. Also see Minicon 35 PR1.

We look forward to presenting another original SF audio work at Minicon 35, as part of the Mark Time Radio Hour on Friday evening of the convention.

Notes on Taking Your Furby to Minicon

Please do take your Furby to Minicon.

Please do not tape your Furby to the wall, or attach it to the wall in any way. This means any of the walls, including the ones in your room. Even if your Furby asks nicely. (And don't even think about the fire sprinklers.) Posters, signs, and Furbys with party announcements on them may be attached to the Minicon signboards and kiosks.

If your Furby wishes to leave the hotel for a while, there are in/out privileges available from the hotel parking ramp, as long as either yourself or your Furby is a registered guest at the hotel.

For those Furbys who are financially independent and who would like a bit of room to stretch their legs, there are still lots of rooms available at

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