



Goat Droppings

The Official E-Newsletter of Phandemonium / Capricon

Winter 2010 Inside this issue:

Capricon 30 Progress Report
Call for Candidates
Greening Initiatives
Follow Us on the Web!
FEAST / Mrs. Caliban Outing
Phandemonium Book Club
Phandemonium Euchre Club
Out of CON-text

Capricon 30: Celebration!

February 11-14, 2010
Pre-registration: \$55
Through January 31, 2010
\$70 at-the-door

Online Registration and
Hotel Booking is available!

Visit us today at
www.capricon.org

Keep in touch all year long!
See Page 3 to find out how!

Capricon 30 will be held at:

**Westin Chicago
North Shore
601 N Milwaukee
Ave, Wheeling, IL
60090
847-777-6570**

**[www.westin.com/
chicagonorthshore](http://www.westin.com/chicagonorthshore)**

**Room Block closes
January 21, 2010**

Capricon 30 Progress Report

We're making great plans for our 30th Anniversary / Birthday Celebration!



- **Online registration is up and running, as is online hotel booking.** Remember: Pre-registration ends Sunday, **January 31**, and the Hotel room block closes Thursday, **January 21**.
- Our Exhibits area was a big hit last year, and will be growing this year! If you have anything to loan us that you feel represents Capricon's history, please email exhibits@capricon.org. We are especially seeking someone who has a **copy of the program book from Capricon One!**
- Fan tables are still available. Email us at fantables@capricon.org.
- Volunteers are always needed to help out at the convention! If you are interested in volunteering and earning your registration fee back, email volunteers@capricon.org and let them know.
- We will be having a **Book Drive** to benefit Rotary District 6440 (Chicago and North/Northwest Suburbs) Literacy Program. Bring your gently used books and drop them off at the Greening table or Info Desk throughout the convention.
- We will also be having a **Food Drive** to benefit the nearby Vernon Hills Township Food Pantry. Bring boxed or canned non-perishable food items and drop them off at the Greening table or Info Desk throughout the convention.

Guest Updates

- Due to illness, **Spider and Jeanne Robinson** will be unable to attend Capricon in person. They will, however, be attending virtually through the Magic of Technology™. More information can be found on our website.
- We have many past Guests of Honor returning to celebrate with us this year, including **Gene Wolfe** (Author GoH, Capricon II) and **Lawrence Watt-Evans** (Author GoH, Capricon VIII). A full list can be found on the home page of our website at www.capricon.org. We're delighted they can join us!

Programming / Events Updates:

- Our programming is coming along fabulously! There is still time to sign up to be on programming—email programming@capricon.org or visit our website for more information (www.capricon.org—click the link for the programming questionnaire). We must receive your application by **Thursday, January 14** at 11:59pm (CT). If you participate on three programming items, you can earn your registration fee back.
- It's our Birthday! There will be cake! Friday night join us for our **Birthday Party**, featuring our largest birthday cake ever! Stick around after the cake to be entertained by two local "Wizard Rock" bands, *Dreary Inferi* and *Diagon Alley*.
- Did you have to choose between Capricon and Boskone? We've solved your quandary! Join us for **live video programming** between Capricon and Boskone.
- Can you spoon the theme to *True Blood*? How about yodel the theme from *Firefly*? Express yourself interpreting the life of Data or sing the Ballad of Jayne? If you think you have any talent, or even if you don't, we are looking for contestants for our own version of the **Gong Show** to be held Friday night at Capricon. Skits should be kept short and CLEAN! You need to pre-register your act with Special Events the sooner the better; spaces are limited. Any questions or to register contact events@capricon.org.
- We will be having several book discussions this year for the **Phandemonium Book Club**. Please see Page 3 for a complete listing.
- **Klingon Karaoke: The Final Frontier.** For the final year of Klingon Karaoke, we're going out in style with Live Band Karaoke this year! If you've never made it before, this will be the year that you WANT to attend. Live Band Karaoke lets you rock out with your Klingon out.. Be sure that you attend this historic event.

Article continued on Page 2

Got a question about Capricon 30? Email us at info@capricon.org. We'll see you in February!

Cap 30 Progress Report, cont.d

Programming / Events Updates, continued

- Are you an artist attending the convention? We are looking to have a **Quick-Draw** and an **Iron Artist** competition in the art show this year. We will also be providing space should you wish to do a demonstration as a programming item. Please email artshow@capricon.org if you would like to participate in any of the above options.
- The **Midwinter Faire** returns on Thursday evening for games, crafts, and general carousing, plus pizza! Interested in helping out? Email us at faire@capricon.org
- Saturday, Saturday, Saturday! It's the legendary (well, ok, they're working on it) filk band, **Toyboat**, in concert for one night only. Don't miss it!
- Right or wrong, the **Dark and Stormy Planet** contest returns! Yes, the bad writing contest. The opening sentences to worst stories never written, by you! Drop off your best (or worst) entry at Ops during the convention. The stories will be judged on Saturday night and all entries will be read Sunday morning, along with the announcement of The Winner. Really want to win? Find a judge—they will gladly accept bribes!
- Let's go outside! Bring your snowsuits and your trail bike. Once again we will be scheduling "**Snow Goons**", our annual homage to Calvin and Hobbes, and a **Winter Trail Ride** along the Des Plaines River.

Keep an eye on our website in early February—we will have the full convention schedule available for download!

Call for Candidates

Members of Phandemonium,

We want YOU! Yes, YOU! Wonder why? It's simple.

Every year the membership of Phandemonium elects two new people to serve a three year term on the Board of Directors. These six people, along with an appointed Secretary, Treasurer, and SMOF (Supreme Minister of Fun) are tasked with keeping the corporation running and enabling the convention and other outside activities to take place. This is where YOU (yes, YOU!) come in.

It's tough to have an election without candidates. If you're interested in helping run Phandemonium and serving on our Board of Directors I would suggest visiting www.capricon.org/forums under Phandemonium Information and reviewing our Corporate Bylaws and Policy & Procedure documents. These documents explain the eligibility requirements as well as the process to be included on the ballot. If you're interested in serving on the board please let us know no later than **February 1st, 2010** by emailing us at board@phandemonium.org. If you have any questions regarding Phandemonium and/or the process you can also email me directly at boardpresident@phandemonium.org.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Capricon in February.

Sondra

Sondra de Jong
President of the Board, Phandemonium, Inc.

It's Easy Being Green!

Start your new year right by going green! You can earn an "It's Easy to be Green" ribbon at the convention by doing 3 or more green action items:

- bring a reusable water bottle or coffee mug
- bring a reusable bag
- carpool, take public transit, or bike to the convention
- commit to eating vegetarian or vegan during the convention
- donate a non-perishable food item (or more!) to our **food drive**
- donate a gently used book (or more!) to our **book drive**
- purchase a carbon offset

For more information, email us at greening@capricon.org or check out the Greening page on our website.

Follow Capricon On the Web!

In an effort to stay in touch with our members and to keep you all informed of the latest news and happenings with Capricon and Phandemonium, we have several online options that you can utilize.

For many years, Capricon has had an online bulletin board community—the Forums. Anyone can read the posts without creating a login. Our forums can be found at www.capricon.org/forums

For Capricon 30, we've decided to start making use of some online social networking sites as well. This year, Capricon can be found on Facebook, Twitter, and LiveJournal. On Facebook and Twitter we are operating under the name Capricious Goat.

To add us as a friend on Facebook you can use the following address:
<http://www.facebook.com/addfriend.php?id=1437232679>

To follow us on Twitter use this address:
<http://twitter.com/CapriciousGoat>

On LiveJournal we have an RSS feed coming from the What's New Section of the Capricon Website. The RSS feed can be found here:
<http://syndicated.livejournal.com/capriconupdate>

We promise not to abuse the privilege you've given us by letting us reach out to you in new ways. We're also looking at the possibility of using Twitter at the convention to send out programming changes and other important information in as close to real time as is practical.

Questions? Email capricious@capricon.org for the answers!



**Dre-registration closes January 31!
Register today for only \$55
(\$70 at the door)**

Hotel block closes January 21!

FEAST / Theater Outing



Phandemonium's Dining Club is FEAST—Fans Eating All Sorts of Things*. It is for fen who would like to meet new people and explore the worlds of good ethnic food. We also periodically combine food with theater or other special events. If you would like to be added

to the FEAST Outings email list, sign up by emailing us at dining-list-join@phandemonium.org.

Our next FEAST will be on **Sunday, January 24, 5pm** at the **Golden Chef Chinese Restaurant**, located at 600 S. Milwaukee in Wheeling (not too far from the Capricon hotel). If you would like to check out their menu ahead of time, visit them at www.goldenchefrestaurant.com. Join us for dinner and get a sneak preview of coming convention attractions! Please RSVP to dining@phandemonium.org or via the Capricon forums by January 15 so we know how large a table to get for everyone!

We will then be having a special **Theater / FEAST outing!** Join us on **March 7 at 4pm** to see *Mrs. Caliban* by Rachel Ingalls, a remarkable story acclaimed as one of the greatest post-war American novels.

"Dorothy is locked in a lifeless marriage of empty domestic ritual until a fugitive reptile-man from another world arrives on her doorstep. With him, she finds forbidden love and experiences a rebirth of her spirit, even as her grasp on reality falters. Travel with Dorothy through the fragile pathways of the human psyche as she dares to live-and love-unconventionally."

The show will be followed by a post-show discussion with the director. Tickets are \$25 and must be paid for at the time of reservation to hold your space. To reserve your ticket and make payment, contact dining@phandemonium.org by **February 14**. We will also be accepting reservations and taking payment at the Info Desk during Capricon 30.

The Lifeline Theatre is located at 6912 N. Glenwood. They have a free parking lot and shuttle service, and are close to the Morse Red line stop. For more info, check out www.lifelinetheatre.com.

We will be FEASTing after the show, restaurant info coming soon!

As always, if you know of any good ethnic restaurants that you think we should try, please post your suggestions on the forums!

*Thanks to Glenn Glazer of California and Dave McCarty of Chicago for the name and acronym FEAST.

Out of CON-text

"I swear, I have no ulterior motives; there are LOTS of avocados in the book."
- Isabel Schechter

"In space, no one can hear the cake scream." - Anonymous

"He said I was cute, but then again, I was giving him beef." - Liz Gilio

"I think the humpty hump is American." - Kevin Wold

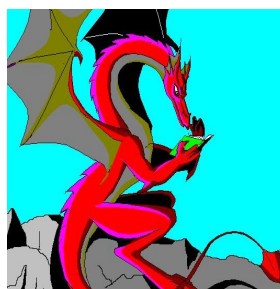
"You have the flying nun and the swimming nun." - David Hirsch

"I have a handout." - Jerry Gilio

"Have you seen my ass?" - Isabel Schechter

"Show me on the Wookiee where the bad man touched you." - Erik V. Olson

Phandemonium Book Club



Welcome to the Phandemonium Book Club! We've been having a great time for over five years, and hope you'll join us!

We meet bimonthly at Borders Books & Music, 1700 Maple Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201 (Phone: 847-733-8852). We meet upstairs in the café. Look for the Capricon t-shirts! (If we aren't there, look across the street in The Rhythm Room.)

Our next bookclub meetup at Borders is March 21st. We will be reading *The Lies of Locke Lamora* by Scott Lynch.

However, you don't need to wait until March! We will be having three bookclub meetups at Capricon this year, one for each of our Author Guests of Honor! Sometimes the authors will come for the last 10-15 minutes so you have a chance to ask them questions. The times and rooms are TBD, but we will be reading the following:

The Platinum Pohl by Frederik Pohl—a collection of short stories.

We will be reading "The Merchants of Venus", "The Meeting", "The Greening of Bed-Stuy", "Fermi and Frost", and "The Gold at the Starbow's End"

Very Bad Deaths by Spider Robinson

FlashForward by Robert J Sawyer

For up-to-date information, check the Capricon forums regularly (www.capricon.org/forums). There is an email list that you can join as well—just email bookclub-list-join@phandemonium.org and you will get email notices about the club. You can also email bookclub@phandemonium.org. See you soon!

Phandemonium Euchre Club

The Euchre Club is up and running on a bimonthly basis, Sundays at 5pm. We're still seeking a permanent home, so you should check the forums (www.capricon.org/forums) for details.



You can also subscribe to our new email list, which will send you reminders & updates about the euchre club. Just send an email to euchre-list-join@phandemonium.org and you'll be all set! You can also email euchre@phandemonium.org if you have questions.

Our next meet up will be on **Sunday, April 11**, at 5pm at The Grafton, 4530 N. Lincoln, Chicago. Shuffle up and deal!

Don't forget to bring:

Books and canned goods to donate

Snow pants and / or mountain bike

The three books for bookclub (see above)

and of course...

Your birthday party hat!

Goat Droppings is edited by Helen Montgomery. This issue's contributors were Helen Montgomery, Mike "Ciggy" Cyganiewicz, Sondra de Jong, Kerry Kuhn, and Isabel Schechter.