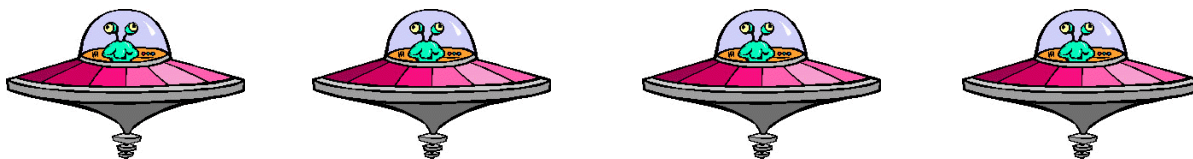


TAFF News Redux #2



March 2019

The not quite official news-zine of the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund, It would like to be, but the restraints are holding. So far.



Here we are folks, the second in a series of newsletter fanzines regarding the 2019 Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund race sending a North American fan to the 77th World Science Fiction Convention this coming August 15-19, 2019 over in the emerald isle, specifically Dublin, Ireland. As promised in the previous issue, this time *TAFF News Redux* will introduce the four candidates more thoroughly as each person provided responses to five questions. Here are those questions:

- 1) **Tell everybody about yourself and fandom: where did it begin for you and when.**
- 2) **Are there any specific sub-genres of Science Fiction & Fantasy you prefer to read? e.g., hard science, alternative history, steampunk, etc., or do you consider yourself a reading omnivore?**
- 3) **Describe your past and current fannish activity: clubs you've been in, official roles (club president, or whatever), cons you've attended/worked on, and fanzines you've produced, and so forth.**
- 4) **What was the craziest or most fun thing you have ever done or experienced in fandom? Keep it clean! (If that's possible.)**
- 5) **If you win, what will your TAFF trip look like? Just Ireland and the UK or other parts of Europe (which?) too? How many weeks do you think you will be able to set aside for it?**

Alrighty, then! Now it is time to read what each candidate wrote in response. Just like the official ballot, the candidates are presented in alphabetic order.



Teresa Cochran
(Las Vegas, Nevada)

Q. #1:

I read about fanzines in *Galaxy* magazine in the 70's when I was a kid. I thought the idea of fanzines sounded like so much fun, but at that time, it would have taken a lot of help from busy family members to read and post to them by snail mail. I set the idea aside, resolving to figure it out at some point in the future. I moved to Berkeley, California when I was nineteen and started hanging out with artists and poets and folk-music fans. I continued reading science fiction, and was a little puzzled that I didn't meet many folks who shared my interests in both folk music and SF. As it turned out, I didn't go to my first convention until I was in my late 30's. I moved to Las Vegas in 2004. Once I

became a member of the Vagrants and Arnie Katz told me about *The Enchanted Duplicator*, I was hooked for good!

Q#2:

I'm curious about everything, but my favorite is first contact and socio-cultural issues. I like LeGuin, Bradbury, and Butler. My favorite series is still C. J. Cherryh's *Foreigner* series. I've been interested in anthropology for a very long time, and first contact is just an extension of that, as far as I'm concerned.

Q#3:

*** I've attended two LosCons and a WorldCon, all in Southern California. The first convention I attended was ShevaCon in Virginia in the early 2000's. I'd been hanging around the Baen books forum, Baen's Bar, and decided to go across the country to meet my new online friends. Some of those friends decided to plan an outing to the Star Trek Experience when I first moved to Vegas, and that was a wonderful welcome to my new home. I looked up local fan groups and then met Arnie and Joyce Katz. I consider them my "fan parents." I've worked on Corflu Silver and Corflu Glitter in Las Vegas. I've been a member of SNAFFU (Southern Nevada Area Fantasy and Fiction Union), the Vagrants, and VSFA (Vegas Science Fiction Association). I've also written for several local fanzines and APA's, including SNAPS, *Vegas Fandom Weekly* (Arnie Katz) and *Beam* (Nic Farey).

Q#4:

As long as I live, I won't forget going to the County Line restaurant in Austin during Corflu Quire and participating in a one-shot using crayons and paper towels. I'm a sap when it comes to spontaneous displays of sensitive fannishness. Corflu Quire was life-changing for me. I was so excited I was bouncing off the walls. I remember Pat Virzi putting a mountain dulcimer in my hands. I then started a jam with Ted White. He was puzzling over the color-coded keyboard, and something possessed me to blurt out, "Deaf people can enjoy music, too."

Q#5:

My trip would be the UK and Ireland. I'd like to spend about ten days there: five before the convention and five visiting with other fans and/or being a tourist. I haven't nailed down specific plans yet, but would love to go to at least one fan meeting and one folk-music session. I know there are loads of folk clubs all over that area, so it will be interesting to see which one I'd like to attend. The same goes for fan get-togethers. I'm sure there will be lots of potential mischief to check out.



Sarah Gulde

(Portland, Oregon)

Q#1:

My fandom started in 1987 when *Star Trek: The Next Generation* premiered. I was only seven years old but I've been a fan ever since! *Star Trek* had a big impact on my life. I grew up watching characters like Jadzia Dax, who didn't let gender roles get in the way of doing the things she enjoyed doing. Or Julian Bashir, a Middle Eastern actor who wasn't typecast as a taxi driver or a terrorist. Or the O'Briens, a mixed-race family that was the only family on TV that looked like mine. *Star Trek* made me believe that anything was possible.

Over time my fandom grew to encompass other kinds of media and other kinds of stories. I spent an entire summer

in college reading all of Arthur C. Clarke. I've held Harry Potter-themed fundraising dinners, and been to the café in Edinburgh where the story was born. I've written for the fanzine Chunga, thanks to the late TAFF winner Randy Byers, who nominated me the first time I ran for TAFF.

My first convention was a Creation Star Trek convention in 1993, but I actually didn't go to another convention until 2010, when I went to my local literary convention for a day just to see what it was like. I had so much fun that I've been going to cons and other events ever since! I've attended everything from the regional Burning Man to SeaDog Nights (a five-day pirate festival) to Star Trek Las Vegas, which I'll be attending for the fourth time this summer. I've made so many friends through the fannish community. The key to happiness? Letting your freak flag fly and finding your fellow freaks!

Q#2:

I'm definitely an omnivore! I read anything that can't outrun me. Besides an extensive Star Trek book collection (including several books from Gene and Majel's personal library), my bookshelves are full of Elizabeth Hand, Connie Willis, The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror, Stephen King, Frank Herbert, William Gibson, Arthur C. Clarke, Madeleine L'Engle, Jacqueline Carey, Gail Carriger, J.K. Rowling, Christopher Pike, H.P. Lovecraft, Neil Gaiman, and Nisi Shawl, one of my nominators. And there are hundreds of books waiting to be read, because I am a proud book hoarder!

At the moment, I'm reading The Abyss Beyond Dreams by Peter F. Hamilton, which is total space opera, and I just finished A Treason of Hawks, the final book in the weird western Shadow series by Lila Bowen, AKA Delilah Dawson. Highly recommend!

I'm also a member of an intersectional feminist sci-fi book club, and one fun thing we did last year was to read the Hugo short story nominees, all of which were written by women. At the monthly meeting, the group discussed the stories and ranked them by voting, and I cast my Hugo vote accordingly. We didn't do too badly – "Welcome To Your Authentic Indian Experience" by Rebecca Roanhorse was our top pick! I met Ms. Roanhorse in the Starbucks earlier in the con and told her we had voted for her, and then got to congratulate her at the end of the ceremony.

Q#3:

My main fannish activities are paneling, costuming, and conrunning. I've been on panels across the country, including Dragoncon, Worldcon, Westercon, Norwescon, Orycon, Orcacon, GeekGirlCon, Emerald City Comic Con, Rose City Comic Con, Wizard World, and Star Trek Las Vegas, where I appeared on stage with Mary Chieffo and Marina Sirtis.

I've run the Fan Lounge for Orycon, and been the GOH Liaison for Norwescon, Treasurer for Westercon 69, and Programming Staff for Worldcon in San Jose. And you might have seen me in last year's Retro Hugos! I carried all of the awards onstage, and let me tell you those things are HEAVY – my back was sore for days! I also hosted the Asian Meet and Greet.

Last year I attended the Locus Awards and got second place in Connie Willis's trivia challenge. TAFF winner Jerry Kaufman defeated me by one point! I did still win a number of fabulous prizes, including a Han Solo folder which I will treasure forever.

Here in Portland, I started my own mini-con called NERD CAMP. Attendees are encouraged to participate in activities to get "merit badges", and if they collect enough of them they get a souvenir to take home! Activities include board gaming, speed friending, panels, a concert, and even a pop-up library hosted by Multnomah County Library, stocked with diverse sci-fi and fantasy. Guests have included Curtis Chen (author of Waypoint Kangaroo and one of my nominators), David Walker (founder of Black Heroes Matter), and The Doubleclicks. All proceeds benefit our local food bank SnowCap, where I'm on the Board of Directors.

I've been a guest on a number of geeky podcasts, including Geek in the City, The Promenade Podcast, DiscoTrek, and most recently Women at Warp, my favorite Trek podcast! We discussed my favorite character, Jadzia Dax, and the episode is online at <https://www.womenatwarp.com/episode-99-jadzia-dax/> if you'd like to listen. On February 21 I'll also be a guest on Anita Sarkeesian's Star Trek: Discovery podcast.

Most recently, I guest edited the December Star Trek issue of Journey Planet, thanks to my nominator and TAFF winner Chris Garcia. The theme was the same as my campaign slogan, "Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations". I invited several fellow Trekkies to write about how Star Trek impacted their lives, as a person of color or as an LGBTQ person, as someone on the spectrum, and so on. We also had articles about the communities that have formed around Star Trek, both online and in real life. It's a family and we want you to know that you are welcome there!

I had never edited anything before, but I found that I really enjoyed it. I loved the experience of helping people tell stories that they are passionate about, and that deserve to be heard. I'd love to get your feedback on the issue, which is available at <http://journeyplanet.weebly.com/journey-planet/journey-planet-42-infinite-diversity-in-infinite-combinations>. And if anyone else needs a guest editor, I'm available!

Next up? More Star Trek! I just received notice that I'll be moderating a panel about the evolution of representation in Star Trek at Wizard World Portland. If you're in the area, the panel is called "Infinite Diversity..." and it's Saturday, February 23 at 2:30 in room B117 at the Oregon Convention Center. Here's the description:

"Star Trek was an attempt to say that humanity will reach maturity and wisdom on the day that it begins not just to tolerate, but take a special delight in differences in ideas and differences in life forms." Gene Roddenberry had a vision that challenged social mores but couldn't be fully realized in the 60's. How has Star Trek evolved over the last fifty years, from TOS to Discovery? Has the representation of race, gender, orientation, ability, and neurodiversity matured? What would Gene think?"

Q#4:

So I actually can't tell you my *best* story here, but ask me in person sometime!

Here's a good one though: after the Saturday Night Gala at Star Trek Las Vegas, some friends and I were sitting in the bar, when who sits down with us but Deep Space Nine's James Darren, Ira Steven Behr, and Jeffrey Coombs! Even Donny Most (Ralph from Happy Days and a guest star on Voyager) joined us! We had a lovely time, and after they left I stole Jeffrey Coombs' beer bottle and raffled it off in a fundraiser for my local food bank.

I'm going to be in the Deep Space Nine documentary "What We Left Behind", and I didn't realize when I was talking on camera about how big of an impact Jadzia Dax made on my life, that Terry Farrell was sitting right in front of me! A friend told me a minute later and I went right back up and did the Wayne's World "I'M NOT WORTHY" bow to her, and she laughed and shook my hand and afterwards I swear I couldn't stop shaking for 15 minutes.

I've got a great photo from late one evening at Loncon where I'm facing off with Patrick Rothfuss. I'm dressed as Bellatrix LeStrange, pointing my wand at him, and he's proudly wearing a shirt that says "SCIENCE".

Also at Loncon, I lost a Tribble that had great sentimental value. I ended up drawing a "LOST TRIBBLE" poster, and a few days later David Langford tipped me off that my poster had made it into one of the London evening newsmagazines. Never did get the Tribble back, though. Dang Klingons.

OK, just one more: I brought a card to a GRRM's autograph session at Sasquan. The front had a drawing of a bloody wedding cake with a knife in the top, and inside it said "Hope it's not another Red Wedding!" It took George a minute or two to stop laughing and sign it, and my newly-engaged friends loved it!

Q#5:

I'm a freelance bookkeeper, so I plan to take full advantage of the flexibility that affords me. I received a scholarship to attend Loncon 3 in 2014, and spent an extra week after the con exploring London and even visiting Paris for a day. The next year I went back and spent the holidays in London and Scotland with friends I had met at Worldcon. After Sasquan, my father flew out to meet me and we spent two weeks on a road trip visiting Glacier National Park, Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone, and the Great Salt Lake. And after San Jose, I took my London friends on a week-long road trip back to Portland, with stops in San Francisco, Mendocino (aka Cabot Cove), the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, and Crater Lake. I just love planning trips!

I haven't done a lot of Dublin planning yet, eggs not hatched and all that, but I definitely want to spend time exploring the city, hanging out with Worldcon friends old and new, and drinking Guinness. I would also like to set aside a few days to stay in a smaller town somewhere, where I can decompress and enjoy long countryside walks during the day and traditional music in the evening. And of course I'm looking forward to lots of Irish food! BRING ON THE FULL IRISH!

I've never visited Wales, but I have a friend in Cardiff that I met at Loncon so I'd like to get there too! And I'd love to go back to England and Scotland to visit with Worldcon friends old and new. As for other parts of Europe, there is so much to do in the UK that I don't think I have the inclination to squeeze in a trip to the continent. Plus I speak the language in the UK (except for Wales and Glasgow of course). I would expect to spend about three weeks overseas, and I hope to visit with as many fannish friends during that time as possible.



Michael Lowrey

(Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

Q#1:

I started out with the early-1970s version of the U. of Chicago SF club (there have been several over the decades), where I learned about fandom and about the SCA. When I returned to Tennessee, I joined the good ol', much-maligned N3F, which for this country boy was a lifeline to the broader world of fandom, including my first exposure to fanzines. When I got to Nashville, I discovered the local SCA and through them the Nashville SF club. Through the SCA I discovered D&D (thanx, Daishi-san!) and through the Nashville club I learned that there were SF cons I could

go to! That first con (it was a Midwestcon) was a glorious revelation: this was my tribe, these were my people! I've been to well over a couple of hundred cons since then, and my opinion has not changed: I'm typing this in the consuite of Chattacon 44! It was in those Nashville years that I fell into the habit of wearing head-to-toe orange, which I've since carried into my union activities, political conventions, etc.

Q#2:

I'm a historian by training, and love me a good alternate history (I've got a couple of story ideas I'm working on in the 1632 universe); but I enjoy a lot of other varieties of written SF, from high fantasy to low fantasy to Lovecraftian to the smarter sorts of cyberpunk; even some military SF, although I'm a Quaker. I am very much a print person, and consider SF film, comics, music, etc. as sidelines to the REAL work of SF, which is books and stories. A very brief near-random list of fave writers would include: Tolkien, Elgin, Ellison, Delany, LeGuin, Lovecraft, Pratchett, Effinger, Bujold, Flint, Lee&Miller, Heinlein, Charnas, P. Murphy, Brust, Karr, Kerr, Pohl&Kornbluth, Bull, Cadigan, G. Cook, Hambly, Kagan, M. Scott, P. Dean, Wrede, McKillip & Tepper,

Q#3:

I've been in the aforementioned U. of Chicago and Nashville SF clubs, and the Milwaukee SF club (I was Premier [=President] of the latter). I've been in the N3F on and off since 1973 or so, and had one term on the N3F's Board of Directors. If I attend one more LASFS meeting, I'll have to join. I've attended well over 200 cons since 1975 including: Midwestcons, Kubla Khons, Windycons, Rivercons, X-Cons, Triangulums, Cremecons, Operacon, Archcons, BYOBcon, Disclave, Duckcon, Minicons, Chambanacons, over 40 each of WisCons and ICONs [Iowa's Icon], every single Chattacon ever held [like I said, I'm typing this while attending Chattacon 44]; three NASFICs, and over twenty Worldcons, from Kansas City to Den Haag. I've only been to one commercial con (original TV *Beauty and the Beast*); but to dozens of GenCons. I was on several con committees for Milwaukee's X-Con and Cremecon, and have volunteered at those cons and many others to do everything from set-up to program scheduling to helping write opening sketches, as needed. I've also been on panels for cons from the tiniest regionals to Worldcons; probably well over a hundred at this point.

I've been in MilwApa for over 400 distributions now; I've done a couple of issues of *Vojo de Vivo*, my own genzine; and I've done brief stints in FAPA, Apa Lambda and the Turbocharged Party APA. Apazine titles: *FeVdeV*, *Bemusements of a Visible Fan*, *Verbum Sap* and *Real Futuristic... I Dig The Fins!*

In the heyday of Usenet, I was active in rec.arts.sf.fandom and alt.callahans, *inter alia*. I've been on a number of fannish e-mail lists, from Trufen to fmzfen to SouthernFandomClassic. I was active in LiveJournal when that was at its peak, and am currently active in a large number of fannish Facebook groups.

Fringefannery: I could be called a Browncoat, Trekker, Helper and maybe even *otaku*. I've written morsels of filk and even fan-fic, but nothing of substance, though I helped edit a series of *Beauty & the Beast* filkzines.

Since that first boxed set of D&D rules, gaming has been big in my life. After a conversation with Gygax, I started writing D&D articles, and branched from that into book reviewing and other professional non-fiction; without fandom, none of that would ever have happened. (And I did play-by-mail *Diplomacy*, thanks to John Boardman.)

Q#4:

I can't pick just one; most of my life's fun has come through fandom!

- a) In the 1970s I served as Dungeonmaster for several of Nashville's teenage D&D players, who would crash in my one-room bedsitter off Music Row during our marathon weekend-long Dungeons & Dragons sessions, interrupted by sleep and Thai food. One of those youngsters has since won a couple-three Hugos!
- b) One Windycon, I joined with a total stranger to form a pick-up team for a trivia tournament. Gene Wolfe and I did okay, even though we were up against four-player teams.
- c) At a Kubla Khon, I collaborated with a score of other fen and that guy named Harlan in writing a short story, albeit one that didn't see print for years.

d) In June 1981, my darling Cicatrice and I were married at X-Con 5 in Milwaukee by a member of the Madison SF club who was an ex-roommate [I am told] of Harlan's, and also happened to be my Bishop. 37.5 years later, we are still going to cons together; and our fanspring, Kelly, has been to well over 100 cons: Kelly games, does apazines and art, as well as stunning costuming and cosplay, and (of course) reads avidly, as well as managing a bookstore staffed almost exclusively by fen.

Q#5:

I've got some sabbatical time squirreled away. I expect to spend between 2.5 and four weeks [*maybe* five, he said wistfully] visiting Ireland, the UK and as much of the rest of Europe as I can (the latter after the cons, when I hope to have developed even more contacts). I particularly plan to hit Scandinavia (I've got friends in Sverifandom) and the Netherlands; it will depend on where I can find events to attend and people to host me.



Geri Sullivan

(Wales, Massachusetts)

Q#1:

Even though I grew up in Battle Creek, Michigan, just a few miles from the original Slan Shack, I didn't know anyone in fandom until shortly after moving from Michigan to Minnesota at the end of the 1970s. The Spirit of Fandom waved her wand, Contact, in my direction on July 21, 1979, when I met Emma Bull and we became fast friends.

Shortly after that, I started doing a few things with members of Minn-StF, the Minnesota Science Fiction Society. Moving parties, celebrating New Year's, and then a Minicon and

another. But it took a few years, and even after being completely enchanted by Minneapolis Music parties that ran until dawn...even after joining Minneapa in the summer of '82...I still didn't think of myself as a fan. I was just doing stuff with friends.

That changed at Chicon IV, the 1982 Worldcon in Chicago. I had one of those "trial by fire" fannish experiences where nothing went as hoped, planned, or expected, yet fandom was somehow my home by the end of it. I've never looked back or elsewhere. Though having my own room key has forever since been a requirement for all convention room-sharing arrangements....

Q#2:

I'm an omnivore outside the genre, though I'm most likely to pick up biographies. Within, I lean toward fantasy with strong character development. I'll read absolutely anything by Tim Powers. Whenever I recommend his books to someone new, I start out by asking, "Which do you like better, beer or poker?" I either point them at "The Drawing of the Dark" or "Last Call," depending on the answer, or cut to the chase and recommend both. Michael Swanwick, because I never know where his stories will take me, only that I'll like them. And, yes, of course Ursula Le Guin and Octavia Butler. Geoff Ryman, for the sheer lyricism of his prose, and, oh, his story-telling. But I also liked Alastair Reynolds' Revelation Space even though I've never taken to classic space opera. Then there's Jo Walton. She's always taking readers somewhere different, and I've liked every one.

Writers I long to read more from include Eileen Gunn, Emma Bull, and Susan Palwick. Thinking about it, I'm more likely to prefer specific writers than specific sub-genres. Guilty pleasures include J.D. Robb's In Death series and Nancy Atherton's Aunt Dimity cozies.

Books purchased most recently? **Raped Black Male, A Memoir** and **Heroes, Villains, and Healing**, both by Kenneth Rogers, Jr. I bought them directly from the writer at his table in the Arisia Dealers Room in mid-January. Books currently checked out from the NESFA Library? **Year One**, the first in a new series by Nora Roberts under her own name and **Down and Out in Purgatory**, by Tim Powers, which I somehow missed when it came out a few years ago. Hmm...maybe I'm something of an omnivore in genre, too.

Q#3:

Eek. We'll be here all night and then some. Are you sure you don't want to just look at my Fancyclopedia entry? (<http://fancyclopedia.org/geri-sullivan>)

Okay, a bit of narrative it is. Minn-StF introduced me to fandom and I, in turn, imprinted on the club's fannish sensibilities celebrating hospitality, creativity, and a sheer appreciation of the absurd. I served as club president for a year (which really just meant that I found hosts for bi-weekly meetings and spent 5-10 minutes at each one calling on various members who wanted to make announcements – Minn-StF has never taken these things too seriously). I was then elected to the club's Board of Directors for rather more years than that, both in the mid-1980s and again in the late 1990s.

I also joined Minneapa and worked on Minicon in a wide variety of roles. It started by helping my friend Karen Johnson, who was running publications. I was surprised when I received a committee badge for that! Karen and I co-headed publications the next year (1984), and in years later I co-headed programming, ran the Minneapolis in '73 suite, helped with hotel, registration, guest of honor liaison, and other departments, and eventually chaired the whole shebang during a time of major upheaval. After that, I got to do the job I wanted most of all: running the consuite.

Walt Willis was a Guest of Honor at Magicon, the 1992 Worldcon in Orlando, Florida. That led directly to my running both the fan lounge for the convention and a Minneapolis in '73 party suite for the duration. Irish fan and writer James White asked to have his room near the suite and decided that 5 consecutive nights of parties there weren't enough, so he hosted a Wet Puppy party while Don Fitch and I were out shopping for supplies for the parties to follow. Magical times, you betcha.

Since then, I've run Worldcon fan lounges, worked in publications, headed the first hospitality division, been the first formally-named artistic director, and done various other things for Worldcons near and far.

In 2004, I moved to rural Massachusetts and joined NESFA. I've been on the Boskone committee ever since. In 2008, they made me a Fellow of NESFA. Fellows have the privilege of adding FN after their name, and when I look at the list at www.nesfa.org/History/Fellowship.htm, I am reminded of the abundance of outstanding contributions made by my fellow Fellows.

On the fanzine front, I've published a dozen or so one-shots and am most known for *Idea* and co-editing the last four issues of Lee Hoffman's *Science-Fiction Five-Yearly*. My work on *Idea* let to three FAAn Awards while the issue of SFFY that Randy Byers and I published for LeeH won the 2007 Best Fanzine Hugo.

In December, FANAC posted *Roadtripping with the Wheels of IF*, a 74-page electronic fanthology that I put together to help introduce Walt Willis, James White, Chuch Harris, Vinç Clarke, and the wonders of Irish Fandom to fans heading to Dublin this summer. Claire Brialey, Mark Plummer, and I are currently working on *A TAFF Guide to Beer*, featuring beer-related excerpts from TAFF winners through the ages as well as some of my own beer-focused adventures.

The question (remember the question?) ends, "...and so forth." There's, um, rather a lot of that, too. One thing is particularly worth noting when talking about TAFF...Fundraising seems to be one of my superpowers. It's a skill I discovered through my corporate day job, and first brought to fandom with the Wimpy Zone Fan Fund in 1986. I raised money to bring Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden to

Minneapolis for a non-con weekend of fans hanging out together. The fund raised enough that not only did it bring P&TNH, but also Martha Beck and Jon Singer.

In 1989, the Harris Fund, brought Chuch and Sue Harris from England to the Minneapolis Corflu, and sent them on a cross-country train trip to Seattle and back again. More recently, I raised over \$9,000 for the MidAmeriCon II Video Archeology Project where we digitized Worldcon footage from the Scott Imes Video Archive, including everything Scott and the Minneapolis crew shot at MidAmeriCon in 1976. The Star Wars Q&A with Gary Kurtz, Charles Lippincott, and this kid named Mark Hamill has over 17,000 views on the FANAC YouTube channel.

Q#4:

It happened in a bathtub; is that clean enough? Minneapolis fan Greg Cotton brought 100 pounds of cornstarch to Minicon. I gave him the okay, and he poured the cornstarch along with the requisite water into the bathtub in the Minneapolis in '73 suite during the Sunday night Dead Dog party. I learned you can dance on oobleck by doing so myself. It's silly, fun, and fine so long as you kept moving.

Things grew a little...tense...a few hours later when it came time to get the oobleck out of the tub. Greg's Plan A proved to have a fatal flaw. When you add even the smallest amount of water to a bathtub full of oobleck, the water floats on top, providing enough pressure to turn the mass quantity of oobleck into, well, concrete. For all practical purposes, anyway.

Greg and the other fans gathered figured it out, as I knew they would. More fine adventures ensued in the process. We didn't break the hotel, but there was an EPA toxic waste investigation of an unknown substance in the parking lot a few weeks later.... Elise Matthesen wrote the filksong; here's the chorus:

"There's oobleck in the bathtub, the con ain't over yet.
It's pleasantly disgusting and it's thick and white and wet.
We know hotel security would say it's got to go,
So there's oobleck in the bathtub, but no one's supposed to know!"

Q#5:

Right now, it looks like I'd primarily be in Ireland and the UK, though if I can get over to the Continent, that would be another first. (I've been to Northern Ireland, but TAFF would be my first trip to Dublin and the rest of the Emerald Isle beyond the six counties.) Thoughts, advice, and guest room invitations welcome.

Around Titancon in Belfast, I'd try to organize a fannish day-trip expedition to Scrabo Tower (inspiration for the Tower of Trufandom in *The Enchanted Duplicator*), Donaghadee, and perhaps even Oblique House. The total trip would likely be somewhere in the 3.5–5 week range. All who have seen me at one or more conventions over the past 20 years will be unsurprised to learn I expect it would be something of a working trip, keeping up with design projects and client needs while meeting and visiting with as many fans as possible.

Right now, I'm enjoying standing for TAFF, sharing my fannish experiences and sensibilities while promoting the fund itself along with all of my remarkable fellow candidates! See you on the Funway.

Remember –TAFF Voting ends April 22, 2019

Thank you, everybody, for your continued support!

2019 TAFF Ballot – North America to Europe

Please read both sides before voting and send the entire sheet as your vote.

The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund was created in 1953 for the purpose of providing funds to bring well-known and active fans familiar to those on both sides of the ocean across the Atlantic. Since that time, TAFF has regularly brought North American fans to European conventions and European fans to North American conventions. It exists solely through the support of fandom. That support, and the continued generosity of fandom, are what make TAFF possible.

Who may vote?

Voting in the 2019 race is open to anyone active in fandom before April 2017 who donates at least \$4.00 (USD) or £3.00 (GBP) to TAFF (larger donations are very gratefully accepted). Voting is by secret ballot: one vote per person, and you must provide your name on the ballot. You may change your vote at any time prior to the deadline. All votes must reach the administrators by midnight (Eastern US time) on Monday, April 22, 2019.

Donations:

TAFF gratefully accepts your freely given money, material for auction and other relevant donations; such generosity has sustained the Fund for more than 60 years. TAFF is fandom's longest-running travel fund – give early and often! Please contact your nearest administrator for details.

Candidates:

Each candidate has posted a bond of \$20 promising to travel, if elected, to the 2019 Worldcon in Dublin, Ireland. Each candidate has three nominators on their side of the Atlantic and two on the other, each of whom has personally contacted the administrators with their nomination. Each candidate has also provided a platform of up to 101 words (published overleaf). Anyone active in SF fandom can run for TAFF as long as they fulfil these criteria for the relevant race; contact your administrator about future races!

Voting System:

TAFF uses a preferential voting system similar to the system used in voting for the Hugo Awards. Voters should rank candidates in order of preference. This allows for the lowest-ranked candidates to be eliminated from the race and those votes redistributed according to the next ranking until one candidate has a clear majority. A candidate must also receive at least 20% of the #1 rank votes on both sides of the Atlantic to win. Any candidate failing to receive this minimum percentage on either side will be dropped, and the second-place votes on their ballots counted as first-place votes in the next ballot count. Votes will be counted according to a voter's contact address, not where they send their ballot. Votes from fans not resident in either Europe or North America will not count towards either side of the Atlantic for the purpose of this rule.

"Hold Over Funds":

This choice, like "No Award" in Hugo balloting, gives you the chance to vote for no TAFF trip this year, should you feel none of the candidates deserve your support. "Hold Over Funds" is exempt from the 20% requirement: if it receives a majority of the votes on the final ballot, no trip will be held this year.

"No Preference":

For voters who prefer not to choose between candidates, but don't want the trip held over.

How to Vote:

Either send a copy of this form with a check, or pay via PayPal. The minimum donation to vote is \$4 (USD) or £3 (GBP) or 3 euros. In the US Checks should be made payable to "John Purcell" (for checks in USD) or to "TAFF" (for cheques in GBP or Euros). PayPal donations should be made to the email addresses below with your contact details and your ranked voting preferences in the comments section. If you do not fill in the comments section, your vote might not be counted! Send your signed and completed ballot form and donation to:

North America: John Purcell – Checks in US\$ payable to "John Purcell". Mail the ballot to John Purcell, 3744 Marielene Circle, College Station, TX 77845 USA. Paypal payments to: 2017taff2019@gmail.com

Europe: Johan Anglemark – cheques in UK £ or € payable to "TAFF". Mail the ballot to Johan Anglemark, Lingonv. 10, SE-74340 Storvreta, Sweden. Paypal payments to: EUTAFF@gmail.com

The 2019 TAFF Candidates

Teresa Cochran

Reading has always been a solitary activity for me. I read SF for many years, and dreamed of meeting other fans. In the early 2000's, I moved to Las Vegas and met many established fans. I began going to conventions. With the help of computer technology, it is much easier for me to write for fanzines. TAFF would give me an opportunity to meet fans and explore the social aspects of fandom. I could also publish a TAFF report in Braille! Don't worry; it will be accessible to everyone.

Nominated by: (NA) Tracy Benton, Steve Stiles, Jacq Monahan; (Europe) Chris O'Shea, Martin Tudor

Sarah Gulde

'Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations'. Why the Star Trek slogan? First, I'm a hardcore Trekkie and co-editor of the December 2018 Star Trek issue of Journey Planet. Second, I'm passionate about diversity in fandom. I've been on diversity panels across the country, and even started my own diversity-focused mini-con. I'm running for TAFF because I've pushed for change in my local con to help everyone feel welcome while celebrating their fandoms, and as the TAFF delegate I want to provide support for other fans who are doing the same. Interested? Let's grab a beer in Dublin and chat! LLAP!

Nominated by: (NA) Chris Garcia, Curtis Chen, Nisi Shawl; (Europe) Fia Karlsson, James Shields

Michael Lowrey

My first convention (1975) was the best thing that ever happened to me. I have loved, married and parented within the tribe. I've been active: the N3F, Usenet, apas. I've pubbed my ish, and been officer of a local club.

I am a Fan, free citizen of the ImagiNation. Whatever else I may be – husband, daddy, union leader, Esperantist, wearer of orange garments, Quaker, feminist, Irishman, Mac user, Wobbly, Hordesman, Wikipedian – this is my Way of Life. My cunning plan? I want to come from a land beyond the wave, meet fans all over Over There, and quaff girder-based beverages.

Nominated by: (NA) Steven Silver, James Nicoll, Arthur D. Hlavaty; (Europe) John-Henri Holmberg, Steve Green

Geri Sullivan

Shortly after stumbling into fandom, I was found guilty of exhibiting enthusiastic energy and a propensity for getting things done. I've been hosting parties, publishing fanzines, running conventions, and organizing special projects ever since. Oobleck. Chocolate robots. Rocks, inflatable gargoyles, and remarkable bheer. You never know what I'll bring, only that it all sparks connections....

If selected, I'll share adventures from years knowing Walter & Madeleine Willis, James & Peggy White, and other legendary fans of yore while meeting new friends of all ages. Timebinding, you bet! Hope to see you on the Funway in Dublin and Belfast. She/her; fancyclopedia.org/geri-sullivan

Nominated by: (NA) Joe Siclari & Edie Stern, Pat Virzi, Dave O'Neill; (Europe) Claire Brialey, Gareth Kavanagh

Please rank candidates with 1, 2, etc. where 1 is your first preference:

☐ Teresa Cochran ☐ Sarah Gulde ☐ Michael Lowrey ☐ Geri Sullivan ☐ Hold Over Funds ☐ No Preference
Name:

Address:

Email/phone:

If you think your name may not be known to the administrators, please provide the name of an active fan (not a fan group, a candidate, or one of their nominators) who is known to the administrators and who can vouch for you being an active fan, eligible to vote.

Name _____

TAFF may contact you over this race. We do not publish your data or pass it to any other organization. All votes must reach the administrators by midnight (Eastern US time) on Monday, April 22, 2019.

Reproduction of this form is encouraged. It is the official voting vehicle and must be reproduced verbatim. Anyone reproducing this form should substitute their name here: **John A. Purcell**