



SIGMA

The Official Parsec, Inc. Newsletter



SIGMA #473

SEPTEMBER 2025

Contents

Pg 3: Dear Friends of Parsec

Pg 4: Parsec Events Survey!

Pg 5: Monthly Events

Pg 6: Confluence News

Pg 7: Parsec Programs - Parsec Short Story Contest

Pg 9: Parsec Programs - Parsec Ink

Pg 10: Parsec Programs - Write or Die!

Pg 12: Chairperson Column by Scot Noel

Pg 16: Parsec Member Announcements

Pg 19: Featured Opinion

Pg 21: Parsec's Sigma Spotlight

Pg 22: Reviews

Back Cover: Next Month's Event

Cover image: "World Domination" by John R. Muth, 2008. Digital illustration made in Adobe Illustrator.

Want to submit your own photo, art, 3D rendering for use on the cover of Sigma?

Submit files to parsecsigmanews@gmail.com

The four programs under the Parsec Inc., 501(c)(3) organization are:

- [Confluence Conference](#)
- [Monthly Events](#)
- [Parsec Ink Publishing](#) (Triangulation)
- [Word - Write or Die Writing and Critique Group](#)

**Need to mail anything to Parsec, Confluence,
Parsec Ink or Word? The address is:
PO Box 79281
Pittsburgh, PA 15216**



Parsec Inc., is an equal opportunity, nonprofit organization and does not discriminate based upon age, ethnicity, ancestry, gender, gender expression, national origin, disability, race, size, religion, sexual orientation, military status, socioeconomic background, or any other status prohibited by applicable law.



DEAR FRIENDS OF PARSEC,

Well, we meet again. Here's an interesting fact: *August's newsletter had the lowest open rate of all the Sigma Newsletters over the last two years.* There's so many unknowns involved in newsletter reads and clickthroughs. Perhaps everyone was tired of Parsec-related material after the smorgasbord that was Confluence, or people were on a late summer vacation. Or, maybe, I severely-overvalued how much people might like Aubrey Beardsley's art.

Maybe, that's also why we didn't get ten people to complete the **Parsec's Sigma Spotlight form**... *I'm not mad, I'm just disappointed.*

I'm actually neither, as we did get four wonderful entries, one of which you will find in these very pages. (Thanks to those who submitted...Alas, no prizes. To which, my wallet thanks everyone else.) And if you like what you see, you can always click the link to submit for your own spotlight.

Along with that, I have another special addition this month. Our very first (or mine, as editor) featured editorial! The **Word writing and critique group** had an interesting conversation on current-goings on regarding the lawsuits and turmoil wrought through large corporations' use of AI this past meeting. Through that, I invited Susan Kaye Quinn to provide us with some updated resources, and a piece or her mind on the matter. (She was much more judicious than I would have been... Many less expletives! But I stand with her and her opinions.) This also comes from a personal experience, where I recently had a story accepted into an anthology, but had to withdraw it due to the contract stating the publisher would be using AI to create audio-versions of the book. Suffice to say, I stand with human-created art.

And with that, I hope you enjoy this delayed **Sigma--the Official Parsec, Inc. Newsletter!**

Until next time!

John Muth

HELP SHAPE PARSEC EVENTS IN 2026 — TAKE OUR SHORT SURVEY!

As we look ahead to a new year of monthly PARSEC events, we would love your feedback to help us create events that are welcoming, exciting, and engaging for everyone in the Parsec community.

Please take a few minutes to complete the PARSEC Event Survey 2025. It's quick (just 3–5 minutes), completely anonymous, and your responses will directly influence the format, timing, content, and location of next year's monthly meetings.

<https://parsec-sff.org/parsec-event-survey-2025/>

**The survey closes on
Saturday, September 20, 2025
—so don't wait!**

If you have any questions or would prefer to share your thoughts more directly, feel free to email us at parsec@parsec-sff.org.

Thank you for helping us make Parsec's Monthly Events better for everyone.

The Parsec Events Committee



PARSEC MONTHLY EVENTS

Date: Saturday, September 20

Location: Squirrel Hill Library and ZOOM

Time: 1:00 to 3:30 pm

The meeting rooms will open at 12:45 pm.

Parsec Events are always open to the public.



Danny Hankner began penning stories about himself and his idiot friends as a teenager. Now, masquerading as an adult, he lives in Davenport, Iowa with his wife and three children, working as a master electrician for his own company. In his spare time, Dan rides and builds mountain bike trails, scrapes infinitely spawning cat hurl off the basement floor, and runs Story Unlikely, an award-winning literary magazine where he floats around self-important titles like 'Editor-in-chief'. His work has besmirched the good reputation of many a publisher, garnering tens of thousands of reads in more countries than not.

Visit [Story Unlikely](#).

Monthly Event Officers: Co-Chairs: Scot Noel & John Muth.
Commentator: Kevin M. Hayes.

**Confluence will be held July 24 through 26, 2026
at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport Hotel
1160 Thorn Run Road Extension, PA 15108**

2026 Guest of Honor ANDY DUNCAN



Andy Duncan is a professor of English at Frostburg State University in the western Maryland mountains; a fiction writer whose honors include a Nebula Award, a Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award and three World Fantasy Awards; a journalist since age 17; and a lifelong collector of Forteanana.

Visit his works on his [Linktree](#).

More info coming soon!

Visit <https://confluence-sff.org/> for more information.

Confluence officers: Chair: Kevin M. Hayes. Treasurer: Karen Yun-Lutz.

PARSEC PROGRAMS

Parsec Short Story Contest

2026 Short Story Contest Coordinator: Jamie Lackey

Announcing the theme and guest judges for the 2026 Parsec Short Story Contest!

This year's theme is Metamorphosis: Send us your stories of complete transformations, inside and out. Of inevitable moments of sudden, irrevocable change. Of destruction that leads to unexpected growth.

The contest is open to non-professional writers who have not met the eligibility requirements for SFWA Full Membership. Writers meeting the SFWA Associate level of membership are eligible to submit to the contest. Previous first-place winners and current year contest coordinators, readers and judges are ineligible to enter.

Submissions will be open from January 1-March 31st. You can find out more [on the short story contest's webpage!](#)

We've also lined up 3 excellent judges for this year's contest!



Bram Stoker Award–nominated author **Douglas Gwilym** has been known to compose a weird-fiction rock opera or two. He co-edits The Midnight Zone (featuring enduring favorites, unforgettable monsters, and strange new talent), reads classics of the proto-Weird on YouTube, and is looking for a home for his collection They Take Our Best & Other Weird Tales. Put his stories in your head at Shoreline of Infinity, Penumbric, LampLight, Lucent Dreaming, Tales from the Moonlit Path, and Tales to Terrify.

PARSEC PROGRAMS

Parsec Short Story Contest

2026 Short Story Contest Coordinator: Jamie Lackey

Sue Burke is a writer and translator. Her novel *Semiosis*, which imagined a planet where plants are intelligent, was nominated for the Arthur C. Clarke Award, John W. Campbell Memorial Award, and the Locus Best First Novel Award. Its sequels are *Interference* and *Usurpation*, and her other novels are *Immunity Index* and *Dual Memory*. She has also written short stories, poetry, journalism, and essays, and she won the 2016 Alicia Gordon Award for Word Artistry in Translation from the American Translators Association. She's a wide-horizons Midwesterner currently living in Chicago, Illinois. More information is at <https://sueburke.site/>



Hammond Diehl's work has appeared in *Lightspeed*, *Strange Horizons*, *Diabolical Plots*, *Flametree Press* and more. Hamm lives in Los Angeles and writes under the comforting blankie of a pseudonym. Follow Hamm, if you like, via Bluesky at [@hammonddiehl.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@hammonddiehl.bsky.social).

<https://parsec-sff.org/short-story-contest/>

PARSEC PROGRAMS



Parsec Ink

Parsec Ink will be tabling at Spaceburgh -- join us!

2ND ANNUAL SPACEBURGH FESTIVAL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RIVERVIEW PARK DAYS

SPACEBURGH 2025

SPECIAL NASA GUEST (S) PITT SPACE MOONSHOT MUSEUM
ROBOT DEMOS SCI-FI AUTHORS COSPLAY/COSTUME CONTESTS
SCIENCE PRESENTATIONS ALLEGHNEY OBSERVATORY TOURS
STAR GAZING (WEATHER PERMITTING) AND MORE!

4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

SPACEBURGH.ORG

Two Festivals
One Day Only
Sunday
OCTOBER 5th
Riverview Park

Riverview Park Day 2025
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Riverview Park Activities Building
142 Riverview Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15214

LIVE MUSIC FREE HOT DOGS GUIDED HIKES
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES INCLUDING A BOUNCE HOUSE,
FACE PAINTING, AND BALLOON MAKING

PITTSBURGHPARKS.ORG

RXP DAY
OUR DAY IN RIVERVIEW PARK

Looking for a past edition of Triangulation?

Hospitium (2024)

Seven-Day Weekend (2023)

Energy (2022)

Or find many more of our anthologies on Amazon.

Parsec Ink officers: Chair: Diane Turnshek. Treasurer: Greg Clumpner.

PARSEC PROGRAMS

Write or Die

A Science Fiction & Fantasy Writing Group



The Write or Die (WorD), Pittsburgh, science fiction, fantasy & horror writing & critique group meets twice every month!

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday, September 23, at the Mt. Lebanon Public Library. Room opens at 6:45, meeting starts at 7:00 pm. There is also a Zoom option to attend.
- Tuesday, October 14, at 7:00 pm, on Zoom only.

For information on meeting procedures, contact info and how to register, **Visit WorD on the web.**

SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday, October 28, from 7 to 9 pm, WorD will be hosting its annual Halloween Reading Event.

This year's MC will be WorD's own **Larry Ivkovich**, we'll have a number of readers from the WorD group sharing spooky, horrific, and probably funny, short stories. And our special guest reader will be....

GWENDOLYN KISTE!

More information, including location and the sign-up sheet for those interested in reading, will be coming soon!

We hope to see you there.



SIGN UP FOR YOUR PARSEC MEMBERSHIP!

Your membership dollars allow Parsec to continue offering the following long list of programs, all of which are open to the public:

Confluence

Parsec Monthly Events

Parsec Ink: Triangulation

Parsec Short Story Contest

Write or Die

Parsec Library

Sigma Newsletter



Become a Parsec Member today!

Parsec members enjoy free advertising in the Sigma Newsletter!
Membership year runs from March 1st through the end of February annually.



The Wheel Deal: How Our First Great Invention Was a Happy Accident

By Scot Noel

I read a lot of Thor Heyerdahl's work growing up. Today, I realize he was more of an adventurer and showman than a scientist, but I still vividly remember titles like Kon Tiki, the Ra Expeditions, and Aku-Aku.

The voyages were cool, but what stuck with me was the attempt to understand how ancient people did things — big things like fashion reed boats and rafts for long distance sea voyages and carve 10-meter-tall statues weighing 82 tons and move them across Easter Island.

Over time I've learned to avoid some of the more fantastical for the level-headed explanations. For example, there's "The Red Sea Scrolls: How Ancient Papyri Reveal the Secrets of the Pyramids" by Pierre Tallet and Mark Lehner. In this book, the authors go back to ancient sources that literally describe how stones were transported and labor forces organized. No aliens. The Egyptians were just good engineers.

That brings us to the subject of this piece: wheels. How did we do that? The most interesting take on that I've seen in recent years comes from YouTube science educator: Anton Petrov. Here's what Anton had to say.

Not Your Grandfather's Eureka ment

Forget everything you thought you knew about the wheel. It wasn't invented by some ancient Einstein having a lightbulb moment while watching a log roll down a hill.

The real story is more interesting. Picture exhausted miners in the Carpathian Mountains 6,000 years ago, dutifully dragging heavy baskets of ore through cramped tunnels. They're about to stumble their way into history's most important invention — one worn-down roller at a time.

The Underground Revolution

The oldest physical wheel known — the Ljubljana Marshes wheel from Slovenia — dates back about 5,100 years. But the story starts earlier, with the Boleráz, part of the Baden culture in central and southern Europe during the 4th millennium BC. That was a long time ago.

The Boleráz were sophisticated potters and, more importantly, miners. Archaeologists have uncovered over 150 different wagon models from this period — not full-sized vehicles, but ceramic miniatures. Many of these miniatures feature engravings that look suspiciously like the mining baskets used in that era.

Here's the scenario. You're hauling copper ore out of a mine shaft. The tunnels are narrow, the ground is uneven, and everything is heavy. Using simple log rollers? Sure, they work great on flat ground, but try continuously repositioning them in the cramped confines of a mine. As is usual, hardship often becomes the mother invention (or laziness; it doesn't matter, we're always trying to make things easier).

From Roller to Revolutionary

The transition from roller to wheel probably went something like this: First, someone got tired of chasing runaway rollers and built a cart with sockets on the bottom to hold them in place. Now they only needed two rollers instead of a bunch of them. And held in their sockets, the rollers weren't rolling away.

Over time, physics and attention worked together to create magic. As these socketed rollers spun day after day, hauling load after load, something unexpected happened. The friction from constant use began wearing down the middle section of the rollers. They got thinner. And thinner. And then someone

noticed something remarkable — the thinner the middle got, the easier the cart was to push.

Maybe it was intentional after that. One clever miner started deliberately carving the middle section thinner, realizing it helped the cart navigate around obstacles and roll better on uneven mine floors. Trial after trial, roller after roller, what emerged was something revolutionary: a thick outer ring (the wheel) rotating around a thin center rod (the axle).

The Computer Says Yes

Now, you might think this gradual-evolution story sounds too convenient. Where's the proof? That comes from James Ella Cook and Richard Bouier, researchers who decided to put this theory to the test using computer simulations.

They created algorithms that modeled hundreds of different roller configurations, testing each for mechanical advantage and structural strength. The goal? To see if random modifications to a basic roller would naturally evolve into a wheel-and-axle system.

Virtually every simulation, regardless of starting conditions, converged on the same solution: a wheel rotating around an axle. The computer had essentially "discovered" what those ancient miners found through decades of trial and error — that the wheel-and-axle combination is the mathematically optimal design for moving heavy loads.

The Wheel That Keeps On Turning

The beautiful thing about the story of the wheel is that it never really ended. About 200 years ago, a French bicycle mechanic had his own mining-tunnel moment when he invented radial ball bearings. Think about it — ball bearings create a rolling interface around the axle, reducing friction just like those first worn-down rollers.

Fast forward to today, and NASA engineers are having their own wheel revolution. Traditional pneumatic tires would explode in the vacuum of space, and the metal wheels on Mars rovers kept getting shredded by sharp rocks. The answer? Super-elastic tires made from memory alloys like Nitinol — a nickel-titanium blend that can take a beating and bounce back to its original shape.

These new wheels can't go flat because there's nothing inside to deflate. They can deform around obstacles and snap back like nothing happened. They're essentially indestructible. And someday soon, when the price comes down, you might be driving on them to work.

The Quiet Revolution

We love our eureka moments, our lone geniuses, our sudden flashes of inspiration. But the wheel? It was a grind. Thousands of anonymous miners, slowly wearing down their equipment, accidentally optimizing their tools through sheer repetition and necessity.

In his book "The Wheel," Richard Bouier calls these "quiet revolutions" — innovations that emerge not from brilliance but from persistence, not from vision but from frustration, not from intention but from happy accidents amplified by practical need.

Six thousand years later, we're still grinding away at it, still improving, still discovering new ways to make things roll. From Carpathian copper mines to the Martian surface, the wheel keeps evolving, one revolution at a time.

And that, perhaps, is the most human story of all.

Oh, and if you'd like: [watch Anton Petrov's YouTube video.](#)

Scot Noel has always written Science Fiction and Fantasy Fiction. Indeed, from the moment he learned to scribble in cursive, he began to split his time between playing with toys and writing tales of their plastic adventures. In time, he went on to earn a degree in English and to make his living via the keyboard.

PARSEC MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS



From Jamie Lackey:

The Forest Gods, a sequel to 2020's The Forest God, is now available as a perfect bound paperback edition with french flaps from Air and Nothingness Press!

The ebook will be coming soon!

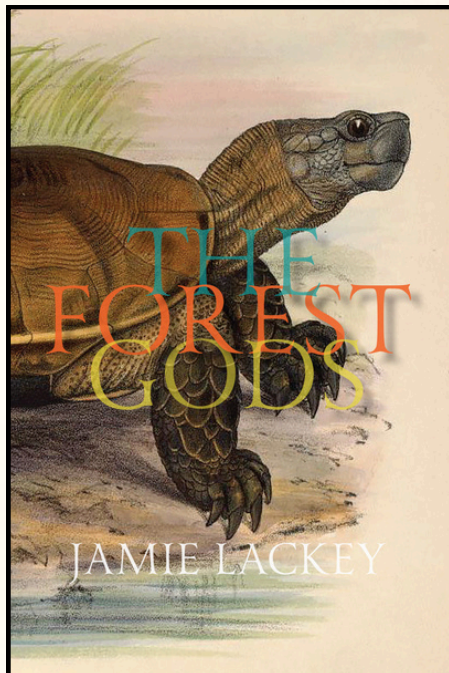
The Forest God, ever-changing and eternal, incarnated into the body of a turtle, reckless and wise, deliberate and unconcerned.

The Witch, returned to herself, unsure of her place and hungry for meaning.

The Lord, unshouldering his burdens, ready to make different choices.

Two decades ago, they fixed what was broken and built a brighter future. Now, the Witch's apprentice and the Lord's heir are ready to take their places, and they have to decide what comes next.

Can what was once sacrificed be regained? And at what cost for both themselves and the world?



We're having a book launch event for my new book on October 17th at Blythe Books! Here is the link to sign up for a free ticket.

<https://www.blythebooks.com/shop/p/an-evening-with-jamie-lackey>

Thanks!

PARSEC MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS



From Diane Turnshek:

More press:

"Fighting for Darker Skies: Diane Turnshek Brings Pittsburgh's Night Back into Focus"



https://www.instagram.com/p/DOMcxjtCNVV/?img_index=1

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/pittdietrich_meet-diane-turnshek-adjunct-assistant-activity-7369434767013859328-nOvV?



Sign up for my free monthly newsletter about local astronomy events. (Or scan the QR code above.)

AUTHOR TALK




An evening with
Yume Kitasei
in conversation with
MC Benner Dixon

Thursday, October 2nd
7:00 pm

Riverstone Books
McCandless Crossing
8850 Covenant Ave.

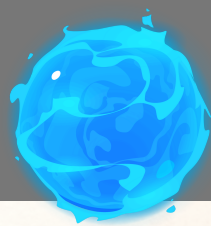
REGISTRATION REQUIRED



From M.C. Benner Dixon:

I'm going to be in conversation with the wonderful sci-fi author Yume Kitasei about her new book, *Saltcrop*, on October 2. You might know Yume's work from either of her first two space novels: *The Deep Sky* or *The Stardust Grail*. *Saltcrop* is a dystopian climate fiction centered on the story of three sisters—one of whom has disappeared while working for a big ag/chem company (think: Monsanto). It's going to be a great time! Come on out!

PARSEC MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS



From Mary Soon Lee:

I had a fun time at Confluence, my first in-person conference in three years. The best part was meeting friends old and new, but I also enjoyed panels, readings, a concert, and the temptations of the Dealer's Room.

And while I was NOT at Worldcon, one of my poems was in attendance in the Worldcon Souvenir Program Book! Here is my poetry news, starting with the poem at Worldcon....

- "Not Like This" was in the Worldcon Souvenir Program Book. This poem first appeared in Apex Magazine, and is part of my epic-fantasy-in-poems, The Sign of the Dragon.
- "To Undertake a Quest" is in the World of Possibility Poetry Anthology.
- Corn Snake #2, a poem about my daughter's snake, appeared in Uppagus.
- How to Save the Dynasty appeared in Heroic Fantasy Quarterly.
- "What Death Reads" appeared in Asimov's Science Fiction.
- "The Hanging Gardens of the Moon" appeared in Utopia Science Fiction.

Meanwhile, on the reading front, I re-read another three of the Liaden Universe books by Sharon Lee and Steve Miller, a series that continues to give me great pleasure. My favorite so far is "Balance of Trade," which introduces Jethri, a character I'm very fond of. I also very much liked Amal El-Mohtar's beautiful novella, "The River Has Roots." Plus I've begun reading the Elgin-nominated poetry chapbooks so that I can vote responsibly.

As ever, all my book reviews may be unearthed at Goodreads.

AI (Anthropic) Class Action Lawsuit: What Authors Should Know

By: Susan Kaye Quinn

AI is a blight upon the world: I hates it for all the reasons.

There are lots of ongoing lawsuits against AI companies, but Bartz vs. Anthropic is the first with a historic \$1.5B preliminary settlement for authors whose books were stolen. The judge rejected the settlement because the procedure for payouts was a mess, but parties will come back (likely by Oct 10th) with a better process.

I would prefer they went to trial and bankrupted Anthropic. This settlement screws so many authors whose books were stolen (but will get no compensation), and the settlement is a joke for a company valued at \$183B—they raised \$10B after the settlement, showing it's a slap-on-the-wrist fine meant to allow business-as-usual for Anthropic. Worst of all, the judge allowed Anthropic to keep their AI model built on stolen books.

But the more authors who file claims, the more Anthropic might pay.

How do you know if your books, short stories, screenplays, articles, etc were stolen?

The Atlantic published a searchable version of one of the pirated databases Anthropic used (LibGen). The database has duplicates, translations, misspellings: it's a mess. I've got 91 pirated titles, but that's only ones with my author name(s) attached, could be more. Judge has ordered an official searchable database assembled.

If your work was stolen, how do you know if you can file a claim?

For arcane class-action-lawsuit reasons, you need to have registered copyright at the Copyright Office (search here). Your publisher may have registered on your

FEATURED OPINION

behalf, but a lot of NYTimes bestselling authors are pissed because their publishers were supposed to register copyright... and they never did.

If you have registered works, give the class action lawyers your contact info.

Even if you're not sure if the works were pirated, submit your info! They will contact you later on how to file a claim.

Almost all my works are copyright registered, yet only half seem like they'll qualify (many were not registered on time). And many authors do not register copyright at all. Out of 7M pirated works, only an estimated 500,000 qualify for claims. That's a lot of authors getting screwed and they're very angry about it. Even the judge is angry, so that might impact the settlement.

Author Jason Sanford has covered this in detail, so check out his posts.

This battle will go on for years. **Literally every AI company has trained their AI on these pirated databases. There are many more lawsuits coming.** In the meantime, AI companies steal more works every day. They're hungry for our high-quality human content: their entire business model is based on theft of our works. Copyright is an imperfect weapon but it's the one we have. **If enough of us register copyright, we become a threat to whoever goes after us.**

Registration isn't cheap, and not everyone can afford it—your copyright should be protected regardless of registration, but we don't live in that better world... yet. Standing firm against the theft of our creative labor now is one way we get there.

If you can, please register your copyrights! I will be much more diligent about mine.

Whatever you do, keep writing—in a world of AI slop, we need human-made arts more than ever.

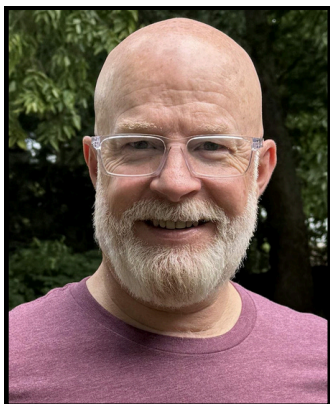
Peace,

Sue

Susan Kaye Quinn, Speculative Fiction Author

<https://www.SusanKayeQuinn.com>

PARSEC'S SIGMA SPOTLIGHT



Todd "Woody" Moody

Lafayette, IN

<https://firefliesandlaserbeams.com/>

What are you reading/ watching now?

We finally started watching Foundation. I also started rereading it.

How long have you been involved with anything Parsec?

I've been subscribing for several years with the intent to join. Same with Write or Die. I've been lurking for years. I am hoping to attend the conference next year. We keep thinking about moving to the Pittsburgh area.

About Me: It only took me forty-five years to figure out what I wanted to be when I grew up—a novelist. I flew jets for the USAF and the USAF Reserve for more than thirty years and hold a degree in Economics from the US Air Force Academy and in June of 2015 I finished an MFA in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University, which inspired me to publish my debut novel, Effacement, a sci-fi thriller that explores futuristic technology and nuanced personal relationships.

I write as Hieronymus Hawkes. My genre of choice is science fiction, but I also dabble in mystery, epic fantasy, and paranormal genres, usually with a little romance mixed in. For fun I like to read, draw in pencil and pastel, listen to music, and surf Substack. I live in Indiana with my wife and our dog Pippa.

What is your favorite piece of speculative fiction? And what do you love about it?

That's hard one. My interests vary quite a bit, but I think Discovery of Witches might be my favorite spec fic book. It has everything I like and ties historical texts and myths into a real story about witches and vampires.

Thanks to the brave souls who are inclined to be featured in this space! What's that? You, also, would like to have your profile shared in the Sigma? All you need to do is complete our [Questionnaire](#), and you may be the next one featured!

Send questions to parsecsigmanews@gmail.com.

NAUTILUS (TV show) Review

By: Susan Kaye Quinn



This show was simply stunning—visually, with lush depictions of rollicking high-stakes undersea adventures, and in its commitment to diversity and truthful storytelling about the all-powerful dominance of the East India Mercantile Company. Absolutely top-notch writing, this British-Australian show is a retelling of *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (the 1870 novel by Jules Verne) as the origin story of Nemo, an Indian prince and scientist who has been captured and is being used by the Company along with other slave labor to build the Nautilus. Nemo has been planning a rebellion, ends up stealing the Nautilus and managing to escape out to sea with half the slave force and the Nautilus's Frenchman inventor Benoit... and that's just the beginning of the first episode. This show is non-stop adventure against a delicious tapestry of gorgeous machines and vibrant characters living one of the greatest adventures ever put on the page.

Nautilus is a sort-of follow-on series to *Around the World in 80 Days* with David Tennent (Dr. Who), which I also highly recommend. Both are available on streaming.

PARSEC EVENT IN OCTOBER

Our guest will be Teresa Milbrodt!



Dr. Teresa Milbrodt is the author of three short story collections: *Instances of Head-Switching*, *Bearded Women: Stories*, and *Work Opportunities*. She has also published a novel, *The Patron Saint of Unattractive People*, and a flash fiction collection, *Larissa Takes Flight: Stories*. Her fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry have appeared in numerous literary magazines. Teresa's scholarly interests include disability humor, disability and sexuality, and creative practice in disability communities.

Read more of her work at:

<http://teresamilbrodt.com/homepage>

Date: Saturday, October 18th, 2025

**Location: Squirrel Hill Public Library - Meeting Room B
with a Zoom option.**

Check www.parsec-sff.org for more details.



Thank you to this month's contributors! Thank you to the program officers and Board Of Directors that help keep everything Parsec running smoothly, and especially thank you to the readers who have yet to say anything about all bats in the belfry.

Editor, John Muth

Parsec Board of Directors: President: Kevin M. Hayes.
Vice President: John Thompson. Treasurer/Secretary: Karen Yun-Lutz.
At Large Members: Alan Bailey, Jamie Lackey, John Muth, Scot Noel,
and Kathryn Smith
Executive Director: Diane Turnshek
Current BOD can be found on the [WEBSITE](http://www.parsec-sff.org)

www.parsec-sff.org | parsecsigmanews@gmail.com