

SIGMA

The Official Parsec, Inc. Newsletter



Sigma #482
June 2026

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Cover image: "Attempted Intervention" by: John R. Muth, 2026.

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**



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DEAR FRIENDS OF PARSEC,

Whew! What a whirlwind few weeks it has been.

First, I want to cover the most important thing happening, not quite behind the scenes, but hopefully leading to the biggest forthcoming changes within Parsec, and that is—**Parsec is seeking an Executive Director**. The posting is on the following pages, and I look forward to the submissions and getting someone to help guide this organization into the future. With all that that may entail. I hope you will check it out, consider applying if it speaks to you, and/or share it with others who may be interested.

Second, I wanted to celebrate the **Pittsburgh Book Festival** that took place on Saturday, May 30. It was a great event, filled with so much content relative to speculative-fiction. Particularly the panels moderated by Diane Turnshek (with John Scalzi and Isabel J. Kim) and Jamie Lackey (“Speculative Frontiers”), along with a number of other Parsec-affiliated folk who were selling their work, were on programming, or just enjoying the experience. (*That was me.*)

Third, I attended my first **StokerCon** this year and it was simply amazing. My heart was filled by the large swaths of humanity; literally walking around, but also as presented on panels, and from so many of the folks I spoke to. Even if horror is not, particularly, your jam: I would recommend attending next year and just taking it in. (It will be in Pittsburgh, again for 2027.) It was a special experience to me, and one I hope to foster more of in Parsec. (Hence the cover of the Sigma this month! But I don’t solely mean bringing more of a focus on horror.)

Actually, to speak to that, for a moment. There was an open meeting with the HWA (Horror Writers Association) board of directors and trustees, where members and non-members (*also, me!*) could hear about the organization and ask questions. One of the things that really struck me, and has continued to hit me in the week since, having now joined the HWA and being in their Facebook group, is the diversity, the joy, and, most importantly of all, **the community** they have. At that panel I intended to ask how the HWA fosters this, and before I could raise my hand it hit me.

It requires the members to be engaged, active, and more importantly excited to be a part of the organization. This is not in any way meant to scold others for not engaging—or as it might be, not engaging *anymore*—but in recognizing how that energy has to start from the top down. Maybe attending StokerCon was what I needed in order to voice that, but I'm (more) excited for Confluence now. I'm excited for the monthly meetings, and the WorD group.

I'll admit, it can be a slog to sit down and start the newsletter each month, but once I've dug in and read everyone's announcements, or the submitted content (like Larry's, hopefully continued, reviews), and Timons' gleefully masochistic attitude toward submitting his work—creating the Sigma becomes a joy.

I hope that comes across, and I hope that energy can eventually show itself through you writing in, taking on a column, or just getting into the habit of sending in a monthly Member Announcement. (Taking a cue from Mary Soon Lee, I welcome updates of simply stating what you're reading. Let's build up those TBRs!)

It was pointed out to me over the last weekend just how many creatives (poets, comic-creators, and other kinds of artists) and, maybe more importantly, **fans**, there are in Pittsburgh for science-fiction, fantasy, and horror! There's even more reading this who are regional, national, or international, and I hope to see you involved as well.

On the topic of large events and community, there are a couple last things to highlight. **Confluence**, as mentioned, is just over a month away! See the expanded section about the programs you can still sign up for, pre-order your t-shirt, and of course, register to attend! Before that, though, join us, next Saturday, June 20, for an evening at the **Allegheny Observatory**. I'm very excited, and deeply indebted, to Diane Turnshek and the crew at the observatory for helping to make this event happen. (Registration is requested, because space is limited. See following pages for more details.)

Until next time!

John Muth

Sigma Editor, Monthly event officer, and
Parsec, Inc. Board of Directors, President

Parsec, Inc. seeks an Executive Director



MISSION: To promote awareness of the richness of speculative fiction as literature, art and music; further general education in the sciences and arts, support contributions—both scientific and artistic—to society and to espouse the enjoyment of speculative fiction as literature, art and music with others.

DESCRIPTION: Founded in July 1984, Parsec, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and the premier science-fiction, fantasy, and horror organization in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Parsec has four active, fairly self-sufficient committees:

- **Annual Conference:** Confluence is Pittsburgh’s longest running literary, art, and music conference with a focus on science-fiction, fantasy, and horror. Award-winning authors, editors, artists and songwriters gather for three full days, offering a wide variety of activities including; writing workshops, panel presentations, music concerts, science programming, an art show, art demos, poetry readings, a dealers room and Saturday evening entertainment.
- **Monthly Programs:** Consisting of the monthly events, featuring guests and lectures by people in speculative fiction, publishing, science, and art fields. The monthly newsletter, Sigma, has over 800 subscribers. Each year Parsec holds an annual picnic in August, a holiday party in December, and all events are free and open to the public.
- **Publishing:** Parsec Ink was founded in 2003 and is a program focused on getting future editors experience in putting together an annual anthology - Triangulation. From concept, gathering a team, putting out the submission call, and fundraising, leading to the creation of a unique anthology every year.
- **Workshops:** The Write or Die writing and critique group was founded in 1996 and joined Parsec in 2023 as the official workshop committee. The group meets twice a month to review and critique each other’s writing, offer support and advice to authors seeking publication, and has published a previous anthology of the group’s work.

POSITION: Parsec, Inc. is a divergent organization with many interests, a long history, and a desire to continue far into the future. For that, we are looking to fill a volunteer position of Executive Director who has the energy, the stamina, and the willpower, to

maintain the organization through its many projects and programs. The organization has always been a work in progress, an experiment of the grandest order, limited only by the time, resources, and people making everything happen.

To that end, below is a list of basic duties expected of an Executive Director, but our real goal is to bring in someone with a vision and passion for what makes Parsec impactful: a celebration of creativity and our people.

DUTIES:

- Manage day-to-day activities and operations of the organization; including monitoring email inboxes, checking P.O. Box, updating websites, and scheduling/attending Zoom meetings
- Communicate the organization's mission to stakeholders and partners
- Guidance and oversight to the organization's program committees and board of directors (the position will be considered a member of the board and will have a voting say only in matters of breaking a tie)
- Financial Management (grants, fundraising, donations)

COMPENSATION: This is an unpaid position, with an un-set schedule. (Working hours may be between 10 to 20 hours/wk. minimum.) There are opportunities for the executive director to fundraise for the organization, which could include funds to be used as compensation.

HOW TO APPLY: Despite the title, this is not a regular job. Parsec, Inc. is not a regular organization. Therefore, we do not have a regular process. If you are interested in applying for the Executive Director position, please submit a proposal of what you see Parsec, Inc. needing, how you would lead the organization into the future, and a plan for sustainably continuing the programs currently active. Growing the programs and the organization so that it remains the premier organization promoting science-fiction, fantasy, and horror in literature, media, and music, in Pittsburgh and beyond.

You are welcome to submit a cover letter, resume, essay or presentation (video or slide), that communicates how you would be best to serve as Executive Director. Be creative, think outside the box, but be honest with what you believe you can achieve with Parsec.

Please send all submissions to: parsec@parsec-sff.org

Being a Parsec member is not a requirement of applying for this position. All potential candidates will be requested to meet and interview with the Parsec board of directors. If you have any questions about Parsec or the position, please contact the email address, above, and we will do our best to answer you.

Thank you!

Become a Parsec Member today!

Parsec members in 2026 will receive a free ebook of this year's **Parsec Short Story Contest winners**, and enjoy **free advertising in the Sigma Newsletter!**



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 Writing & Critique Group
Parsec Library
Sigma Newsletter

The Parsec Membership year runs annually from March 1st through the end of February.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR BUY ONE FOR THE FIRST TIME!

With your membership you get a digital membership card with your name and status for the year. Each member can also choose to have your name on the Parsec website, and here in the Sigma Newsletter.

Join today and get your name listed along with these folks:

Lifetime Members:

Barb Carlson, Greg Armstrong, Mary Soon Lee,
Timons Esaias, William Blake Hall

Founders Fund Members:

Sarah Wade Smith, Joan Fisher

2026 Main Members:

Judith Gallagher, Susan Urbanek Linville, Susan Kaye Quinn, Dan Błoch, Jenny Thompson, Barton Levenson, Larry Ivkovich, James Hardin, John Muth (BOD), Darcy Conaty, Scot Noel, Kathryn Smith (BOD), Jamie Lackey (BOD), Alan Bailey (BOD), Jennifer Theoret, Jess Simms, John Frochio, Greg Clumpner, Amanda Pica, Christine Benner Dixon, Susan M. Smith, Michael Albergo, Paula Sandusky, Brandon Ketchum, Kevin M. Hayes, Shane LaBarge, Kim Vilsack

2026 Associate Members:

Amy Finkbeiner, Stephen V. Ramey, Elizabeth Penrose,
Jane Noel, Bernadette Harris

PARSEC MONTHLY EVENT

Date: Saturday, June 20th, 2026; Time: 7 to 9 pm
(Zoom opens at 6:45 and ends at 9:00 pm.)

Allegheny Observatory

159 Riverview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA and on Zoom.

Registration Requested, as space is limited.

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



In June, our program will be to learn the history of the Allegheny Observatory atop Observatory Hill north of the city. This will conclude with a tour of the observatory, and Pittsburgh skies-willing, a close-up look at the moon. For those online and/or who cannot make the trip up the 100 steps and tight corridors to the telescope, there will be a further discussion about the observatory and the night sky in the observatory's library.

If you are driving from Pittsburgh on I279 N, take Exit 2 for Hazlett street and turn left on East St., but do NOT turn left on Milroy. Continue on East St. and let your GPS reroute. Check <https://www.observatory.pitt.edu/directions> for more information.

This historic building is partially handicapped accessible. Please ring the bell next to the door at the top of the ramp. The first floor includes the lecture hall, library, rotunda and workroom.

Monthly Event Officer: John Muth

**Confluence
T-shirts are
Pre-order Only
and Sales Close
on Sunday,
June 28th!**

We will be taking pre-orders again this year! We may have a few of several more popular sizes for sale during the Confluence conference. If you missed the pre-sale and would like to purchase one, please visit the registration table early!



Our front artwork this year is a gorgeous dragon by artist [Patricia McCracken](#).

Description from Patricia:

The dragon would best be described as a Chinese Tengshe or a Feilong which basically means a "flying serpent" or dragon who controls the weather and they don't have any limbs. They most likely read scrolls therefore they don't need hands to turn the pages.



**2026 Featured Artist
Patricia McCracken**



Writing Workshops with Marie Vibbert

Signup is required. Space is limited!

Workshops will be held in the Boardroom on the main floor behind Commonwealth East.

It is suggested participants bring a laptop, a tablet, or a notebook.

Saturday, 9am to Noon: A Story in Three Parts

After selling over 100 short stories to professional magazines, I've learned that the best way to get better at writing stories is to write more stories. To that end, we'll jump right in to brainstorm a new story idea via worksheets and prompts. Every student will leave this workshop with a complete short story draft, composed over three intense writing sessions.

Bring your favorite writing materials. There will be a brief PowerPoint and handouts.

Sunday, 9am to Noon: Plotting Plots

Let's demystify plot. We'll look at structure, formula, tension and emotional payload. With a series of exercises, we'll practice twists and surprises, endings and resolutions. Bring your plot questions and frustrations, as well as your favorite writing materials. There will be a PowerPoint and handouts, and the hope is that every student will leave with a deeper understanding of plot, and how to fix plot holes or problems.

Writing Exercises in the Equinox Room with **M. Christine Benner Dixon and** **Schereéya**

Saturday & Sunday, 9 to 10 am

No signup required!



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**



2026 Musical Guest **QUICK SAVE**



Pitch Sessions are back!

A wonderful opportunity for authors!
We have 3 agents who will meet with up
to 10 participants, each, for 5 minutes.

Signup is required.

Rachel Beck, from Liza Dawson Associates,
is looking for Horror, suspense and thrillers.
Friday 07/24/2026 – 4:00 PM to 4:55 PM

Jennie Dunham, from Dunham Literary
Agency is looking for Spec Fic, literary fiction
and YA.

Saturday 07/25/2026 -1:00 PM to 1:55 PM

Sarah Nicholas Fisk, from The Tobias Literary
Agency is looking for Young Adult (all fiction
genres), Middle Grade (all fiction genres),
Adult Romance, Adult speculative fiction and
Adult Mystery/Thriller.

Sunday 07/26/2026 – 10:00 AM to 10:55 AM

Sessions will take place in the Equinox
Program Room. Plan to arrive 10 minutes
early for your time slot.

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

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

PARSEC PROGRAMS



Parsec Ink

The 2026 Triangulation anthology is edited by Marie Vibbert.
The theme for this year is:

BAD ROMANCE

The Bad Romance Kickstarter has concluded and not only did we hit our base goal, but three stretch goals to include interior art and to increase pay for our authors to HWA professional rates! Thank you all so much for your support of the campaign.

The manuscript is about to go to the printer and be ready for our launch party the evening of Saturday, July 25th at Confluence. If you missed out on the Kickstarter, we will have a limited number of copies of the Bad Romance Special Edition available for sale. We hope to see you there!

Looking for a past edition of Triangulation?

[Dark Hearts](#) (2025)

[Hospitium](#) (2024)

[Seven-Day Weekend](#) (2023)

[Energy](#) (2022)

Or find many more of our anthologies on [Amazon](#).

Parsec Ink officers: Chair: Jessica Carver. Treasurer: Greg Clumpner.
Editor: Marie Vibbert.

PARSEC PROGRAMS

Parsec Short Story Contest

2026 Short Story Contest Coordinator: Jamie Lackey

Submissions closed on March 31st.

You can find out more [on the short story contest's webpage!](#)

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.

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, June 23 at 7:00 pm in the Mt. Lebanon Library, Room A with a Zoom Option available.
- Tuesday, July 14 at 7:00 pm, on Zoom only.

For information on meeting procedures, contact info and how to register, [**Visit WorD on the web.**](#)

AUTHOR SEEKING REJECTION

A QUEST, Volume 6

By Timons Esaias

It's the beginning of June, but I'm already beyond halfway to my goal of 300 rejections. The current count is 175.

I am reminded to share this bit of advice: avoid self-rejection. Your job is to write the stuff, not reject the stuff. That's what editors are for, so let them do their jobs.

A lot of us finish a story, maybe take it to a group, revise it, and then get so unhappy with it that we shelve it without submitting it to anyone. Here's the truth: you are often unhappy with it because it did what you tried to do, and it's finished, and now you're bored. If you submit these pieces, instead of hoarding them, I'll bet they sell at the same rate as the stuff you feel confident about.

Case in point: the poem I wrote that won an Asimov's. It had been a note written in my notebook for years, to do something with the fact that Isaac Newton was born on Christmas (not 12/25, but the old Christmas). I knew what that something would be, and one year I finally composed the poem, sitting in the 61C Café. Took less than 20 minutes. It was time to send things for Xmas issues, so I mailed it to Asimov's, but as I was filing it away in my submission drawer I looked at it and was bored. Too simple, too obvious. Clearly no good. So I put a sticky note in my logbook that read RETIRE UPON REJECTION.

Fortunately, Asimov's took it, so I never got the chance to bury it in the files.

Timons Esaias is a sporadically award-winning satirist, fictionator and poet. His works have appeared in 22 languages, on at least one planet.

He also teaches workshops.



PARSEC MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS



From John R. Muth:

As you read this there will be about **one day left** to back the [Kickstarter for my new 48 page graphic novella based on Edgar Allan Poe's short story, Berenice](#). We're already funded, but every little bit helps. Along with that book, you can get copies of my previous science-fiction graphic novels and/or the over 300 page collection of my comics from the past 30 years.

Thank you so much to all who have already backed and supported this project!

Along with that, I was just on the YouTube show from Fugitive Poems, called [The Art Will Not Be Changing](#), along with fellow comic creator Adam Matthew Smith.



Your Announcement Could Be Here!

Parsec members never pay for ad space in the monthly Sigma!
[Become a Parsec member for only \\$30/yr](#)

PARSEC MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS



From Mary Soon Lee:

First up, I'm delighted to report that my poem "What Black Holes Read" is a finalist for the Dwarf Stars award and so will appear in this year's Dwarf Stars anthology :-). The poem first appeared in Star*Line, and, though only 5 lines long, slots into both my many astronomy poems and my many reading-adjacent poems.

I made it to [Balticon](#), despite very heavy rain on my drive there, my first convention outside Pittsburgh in seven years. I was nervous about my panels, but happily there were no conspicuous disasters. It was very good to meet friends old and new, and I especially appreciated Sally Wiener Grotta inviting me to lunch with three of her friends. I also had a lot of fun watching Frank Wu's presentation "Hey-o! What's New in the World of Dinosaurs!" Yes, dragon sex was mentioned and pictures shown.

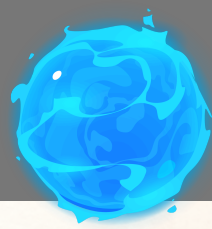
I've had three poems published, one of them a favorite of mine(*) -- [So This Is A Week](#) appeared in Strange Horizons. This is one of several poems that I've written in response to Ted Kooser's superb poem [So This Is Nebraska](#). My poem Whale Dragon appeared in [an episode of 4LPH4NUM3R1C](#) that can be listened to free online. And "The God They Trusted Guards Their Graves" appeared in Space & Time #150.

For anyone in Australia or New Zealand, [The Sign of the Dragon](#) is on sale there through [Kobo](#) for \$4.99 until June 21st.

On the reading front, I loved, as I'd expected, Nghi Vo's novella, "A Mouthful of Dust," the sixth in her wonderful Singing Hills Cycle of Asian-infused fantasy. It's a grim entry in the series, but very good, and, as ever, I love Cleric Chih and their neixin Almost Brilliant. I also very much liked Yangsze Choo's "The Fox Wife," shapeshifting historical fantasy set in Asian in the early 20th century. I note that there are wrenching sections about the death of a child. On the poetry front, I recommend "The Heartbeat of the Universe," edited by Emily Hockaday, containing poems that appeared in Analog and Asimov's magazines between 2012-2022, a mixture of science fiction, science, and fantasy, all well-written. As ever, my book reviews may be [unearthed at Goodreads](#).

(*) Which by no means guarantees others will like it.

PARSEC MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS



From Kevin M. Hayes:

Let's see... I have a lot of stuff about Confluence that needs to be announced to remind everybody - even the ones not planning to come -- as if that could happen.

#1: There are still rooms left in the Confluence room block. We set aside a number of rooms at the hotel just for people attending the con and we still have some left. It lets us dedicated con-goers continue to enjoy the festivities, whether all-night filking, room parties, hanging out at the ConSuite or enjoying the space and quiet. And who likes traveling the Parkway in the dark anyway? You can still reserve [here](#).

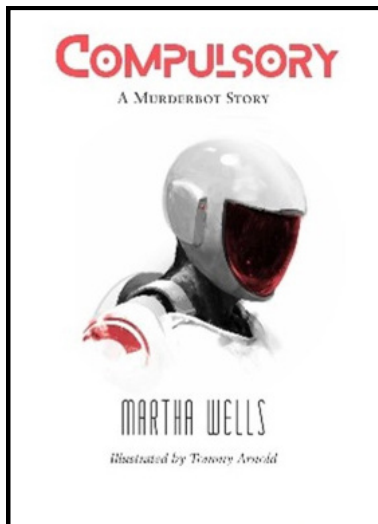
#2: You can get your membership before you forget! So simple! You don't want to wait until the last minute, do you? Well, maybe you do want to wait until the last minute, but, for goodness' sakes please don't! [Sign up here!](#)

#3: WE HAVE AGENTS. It's been a couple of years and people wondered what happened. I guess I just didn't invite the right people and use the right language. I discovered the right words to unlock the level and we have [Rachel Beck](#), [Jennie Dunham](#) and [Sarah N. Fisk](#) taking author pitches from hopefuls at the con. Do you have your grand opus? We have people you can tell all about it. And you can set an appointment with not just one, but two of our fabulous guests if you like. [Right here](#).

SIDE TRIPS IN THE MURDERBOT DIARIES UNIVERSE

By: Larry Ivkovich

With the recent release of the new Murderbot Diaries book, *Platform Decay*, and the second season of Apple TV's *Murderbot* series coming up, hopefully by the end of the year, I thought it would be fun to review some short stories Martha Welles wrote about Murderbot and other characters of that world.



The first one is “Compulsory, A Murderbot Story” which was published in *Wired* magazine in 2018 under the title “The Future of Work: Compulsory.” It’s a prequel story, taking place before the first novella, *All Systems Red*. In this very short piece, the reader finds out Murderbot has already hacked its governor module and is trying to figure out what to do with its newfound free will. It opens with the line, “Since I hacked my governor module, it’s not like I haven’t thought about killing the humans.” It decides not to after discovering hundreds of hours of downloadable entertainment on the company servers (The Rise and Fall of Sanctuary Moon, anyone?). Murderbot’s working as a security unit for a mining company and, at this

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point in the series, humans don't realize secunits can speak, a fact which comes into play humorously later in the story. So, when a company worker falls into a mining shaft, Murderbot has to decide to pretend it doesn't care until it's ordered to do something or - act on its own to save the woman.

The next short story is "Obsolescence" published in 2019 in the SF anthology, *Take Us to a Better Place: Stories*, with each story offering a different take on the future of health care. This story is set in the world of the evil corporate hegemonies described in the *Murderbot Diaries*, but features none of the settings or characters of that series, having taking place before secunits were created (so this is basically a prequel to the prequel "Compulsory"). Instead, new characters deal with the corporations abandoning their augmented human labor (exploration rovers, which were early cyborg versions) to fend for themselves. On the space station KidLand, one of the former augmented human workers named Gregggy is murdered and its augments stolen. It's up to Gregggy's human friend and station administrator, Jixy, to find out what happened and who the murderer is.



The next story is "Home: Habitat, Range, Niche, Territory," which was originally published in 2021 by Tor Books as a standalone digital short story. It's a longer piece than "Compulsory" and is told from the point of view of Doctor Mensa, written in third person and features Murderbot as a supporting character. The events of the story take place between the novellas *Exit Strategy* and *Fugitive Telemetry*

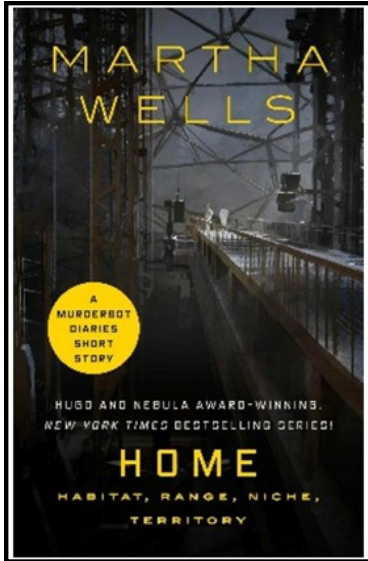
We publish art, writing, or reviews and commentary by the Sigma Newsletter readership. Parsec membership is not required. All content must be original to you. We retain the right to refuse anything deemed inappropriate by the Sigma Editorial team.

Reader Content may not be self-promotional in nature, other than providing a link so we can credit you. Please view the [Sigma Advertising](#) page for details on non-member ads and announcements.

Publishing Reader Content is not an approval from the Sigma Editorial team of any art or opinions stated in submitted work.

Send submissions to parsecsigmanews@gmail.com

REVIEWS

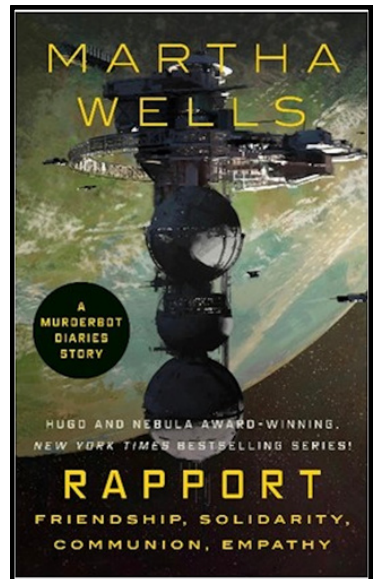


and describe Mensa suffering from trauma after the events in *Exit Strategy* where she was abducted by the bad guys. All her friends, colleagues, family, and Murderbot, are trying to convince her to get therapy but she refuses, thinking she can handle it on her own. This is more of a character study of Mensa than an action piece but has some of my favorite moments in the entire *Murderbot Diaries* series. And, if memory serves, it's the first time Mensa's first name, Ayda, is mentioned.

“Rapport: Friendship, Solidarity, Communion, Empathy” just came out in 2025 from Tor Books and is about ART (Asshole Research Transport) and its crew. It was nominated for a Hugo Award

for Best Novelette. The story takes place after the events of the second novella, *Artificial Condition*, where ART was first introduced as a very sentient (and sarcastic) AI powering the university-sponsored research, cargo-hauling, and teaching starship *Perihelion*. “Rapport” is told from the point of view of Iris, one of the *Perihelion*'s crew having a special bond with ART, as the ship embarks on a secret mission into corporate-controlled space. The crew notices ART (or Peri as its called by the crew) acting differently (in positive ways) with ART/Peri finally confessing to Iris that it “met someone” who introduced it to new operating skills. Who could that “someone” have been?

That's all so far. These stories are worth checking out if, for nothing else, than the sheer fun of reading more about the Murderbot universe.





The In Your Write Mind Writers Conference is taking place June 25 - 28 at Seton Hill U in Greensburg, PA.

Want to get your writing mojo back? Attend Seton Hill U's In Your Write Mind Writers conference. \$120 for the entire weekend event!

Included with Registration:

- A FREE TABLE at our book signing on Sat, June 27th
- A live "Embrace What Haunts You" audio experience by Palimpsest Productions
 - Agent pitch sessions
 - Over 30 writing-related classes
- Ghost Tour of the historic Seton Hill U campus
 - Open mic night

Who: In Your Write Mind is a writers conference that is organized by the alumni of the Writing Popular Fiction MFA program at Seton Hill University.

What: The conference is open to the public and features writing-related classes, agent pitch sessions, a book signing, an open mic and other special events.

Admission for the entire conference is \$120.00.

When: June 25 - 28, 2026.

Where: The workshop takes place at the scenic campus of Seton Hill University in Greensburg, PA. - 1 Seton Hill Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601

Why: It's a great way to network, gain new writing and publishing info, get inspired and jump-start your writing.

[> REGISTER NOW](#)



PARSEC EVENT IN JULY

It's a Confluence Preview!



Join us in July, when we welcome members from Confluence's Special Musical Guest, **Quick Save**, and Featured Artist, **Patricia McCracken**. We'll talk art, music, fan culture, and dragons!

Bring your questions and a friend.

Date: Saturday, July 18th, 2026; Time: 1 to 2:30 pm

(Zoom opens at 12:45 and ends at 3:00 pm.)

At the Squirrel Hill Public Library and on Zoom.

CLP is not the host or organizer of this event. CLP does not support, sponsor, or represent this group or event.

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

Thank you to this month's contributors, who have yet to say anything about the vampires outside calling my name.

Editor, John Muth



Parsec Board of Directors: President: John Muth.
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