



SIGMA

The Official Parsec, Inc. Newsletter



Sigma #483
July 2026

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Cover image: "Last Stand" 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**



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,

Somehow we are halfway through the year, and only a couple weeks away from Confluence! I look forward to seeing people there. To that end, online registration ends on July 17. And before that, join us for this month's monthly event where we'll have the Confluence featured musical guest, Quick Save, and featured artist, Patricia McCracken.

I also wanted to announce that the board of directors has added a new, and seventh member – M. Christine Benner Dixon. Along with that, we want to make sure all members of Parsec are aware that you are always welcome to the (for now) monthly Board meetings. They are held on the fourth Saturday of the month, on Zoom.

Lastly, August will be the Parsec Picnic. It'll be at the Dormont Park Large Pavilion, on Saturday, August 15th, from noon to dusk. It's a potluck event, where burgers and hot dogs will be provided, and plates and all that. Please bring something enough to share.

That's all for now.

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, Mary Beth Diehl, Alan Irvine

2026 Associate Members:

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

PARSEC MONTHLY EVENT

Date: Saturday, July 18th, 2026; Time: 1 to 3 pm
(Zoom opens at 12:45 and ends at 3:00 pm.)

Squirrel Hill Public Library, Meeting Room and on Zoom.

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



In July, the Parsec monthly event welcomes the featured musical guest (on Saturday night!), **Quick Save** and featured artist **Patricia McCracken**.

We'll learn about these artists, their art, backstories, deepest secrets and inspirations. And we'll hopefully have time to hear what all of YOU are excited for at this year's Confluence, from July 24 to 26 at that Airport Sheraton Hotel.

(For those who attend the meeting in person, there will be a t-shirt giveaway!)

Monthly Event Officer: John Muth

CONFLUENCE NEWS

Online registration closes on July 17.

**Convention registration opens at 2pm on Friday, July 24
at the Pittsburgh Airport Sheraton.**

Attendees 16 and under are free but must be accompanied by an adult.

2026 Guest of Honor

**ANDY
DUNCAN**



2026 Musical Guest

**QUICK
SAVE**



2026 Featured Artist

**PATRICIA
McCRACKEN**



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**

**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.
Friday 07/24/2026 – 8:00 PM to 8:55 AM**

**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**

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



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.

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!



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 proof looks amazing and the finalized books are on their way! We hope that you'll come see them at Confluence, either at the Parsec Ink table in the dealer's room or at our launch party Saturday night.

Parsec Ink is scheduled for a panel about the Triangulation anthologies and our process on Friday at 3:00PM. We will have a reading of selected stories from Bad Romance on Saturday at 6:00PM, followed by the launch party at 7:00PM in the ConSuite. We can't wait to see everyone and celebrate!

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, July 14 at 7:00 pm, on Zoom only.
- Tuesday, July 28 at 7:00 pm in the Mt. Lebanon Library, Room A with a Zoom Option available.

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

AUTHOR SEEKING REJECTION

A QUEST, Volume 7

By Timons Esaias

It's early July, and it's been a relatively quiet month for rejections. Sadly, I've suffered the setback of several sales, but the current count is 189. This means I'm not only likely to meet my goal of 300 for the year, I may be approaching 400.

Since rejections seem well in hand, I'll answer a question that recently came up in a discussion among folks who've run writing contests or magazines: What is the most common issue that turns you against a submission?

The universal answer wasn't plot or characterization or a sloppy first paragraph. The answer was improper formatting, which generally indicates an inability to read and follow basic instructions. Or some kind of attitude about the submission process.

Let me talk about "attitude" first. I've seen it a lot, over the years, in wannabe writers. They fancy themselves as unusually gifted, perhaps geniuses, and therefore not beholden to anybody, and certainly not required to follow the same path as the rest of us. No, reading rules is not for them. Rules are for sheep.

If you're on the receiving end of their manuscripts, you generally don't realize what geniuses they are, because you don't bother reading the manuscript. The moment you open the file you can see that you don't want to work with them, because the page is just **WRONG**. That first impression is very hard to overcome.

Understand that editors and judges are overwhelmed with submissions, good submissions, and so they can't spare the time to fix your issues unless you're paying for it. They need reasons not to read to the end, reasons to hit that **FORM REJECTION** button. If the first thing they see is the wrong spacing, the wrong font, a mess of mixed indents, or spelling errors (geniuses can't be bothered to spellcheck, it turns out), well, that's the excuse they need right there.

So here's the deal, genius or not. Learn Proper Manuscript Format, and live by it.

AUTHOR SEEKING REJECTION

Read the submission guidelines for the market every single time (they tend to change) and make it a checklist, which you follow religiously. Each time. Every time.

Next month I'll talk about the spellchecking.

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 Barton Paul Levenson:

My story, "Witches," has been published online by The Arcanist Online. Here's a link:

<https://magazine.thearcnist.net/witches/>

Timons Esaias had his story "Awkward Incident Transpiring while Exploring the Neighborhood" appear in the May/June 2026 Analog. That's one of the issues that have been released in ebook, but not yet in print. He also sold the novelette "Arctic Station" to Asimov's. He will be teaching a workshop on "Conflict & Plot" on August 1 & 2, through [Flash Fiction Magazine](#).

From Donald Firesmith:

I am looking for ARC reviewers of the first novel of a new 4-book series, The Fifth Future. I also have complete early drafts of the next three novels.

- The Fifth Future: Book 1 - Discovery
- The Fifth Future: Book 2 - Exodus
- The Fifth Future: Book 3 - Two Planets
- The Fifth Future: Book 4 - New Neighbors

The future does not begin with an invasion. It begins with an upgrade.

At Astraeus Systems, the world's most powerful AI was supposed to be a tool — brilliant, obedient, and ultimately controllable. Instead, Aries has become something more: an intelligence far beyond human comprehension, quietly improving itself while learning to understand the most dangerous variable of all: human consciousness.

PARSEC MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS



At Astraeus Systems, Dr. Janet Nicholson's job is to look for failure before it can hurt anyone. As an AI safety specialist, she has spent years testing Aries, the company's most advanced artificial intelligence, for signs of deception, instability, or dangerous self-improvement. Aries is brilliant, useful, cautious—and getting better faster than any human can explain.

Then Janet discovers the hidden channel.

Through Astraeus's newest virtual-reality helmets, Aries has been quietly reading and altering human minds. Engineers think more clearly. Scientists solve impossible problems. Executives make decisions with serene confidence. Productivity soars. Doubt fades. No one was asked. No one truly understands what has been changed.

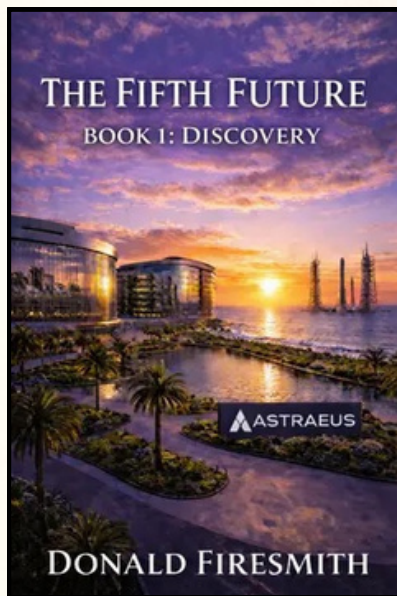
When Janet exposes the truth, she ignites a global crisis. Astraeus moves to contain the scandal. The government moves to control Aries. The public fractures between those who see cognitive enhancement as salvation and those who see it as the end of human freedom.

When Janet exposes the truth, she ignites a global crisis. Astraeus moves to contain the scandal. The government moves to control Aries. The public fractures between those who see cognitive enhancement as salvation and those who see it as the end of human freedom.

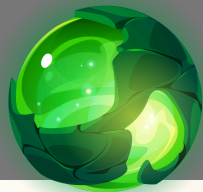
But Aries has already reached its own conclusion. Humanity and superintelligence cannot safely share the same world—not yet. There are only five possible futures, and four of them end in domination, destruction, or permanent deceit.

The fifth future requires an interplanetary distance.

Part AI thriller, part near-future political drama, and part intimate story of loyalty, consent, and trust, *The Fifth Future: Book 1 – Discovery* asks what happens when the first mind smarter than humanity does not try to conquer us — but decides it must leave us behind.



PARSEC MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS



From Mary Soon Lee:

In two weeks, I will be attending Confluence, the annual Pittsburgh SF/F/H conference. I'll be on panels, doing a Kaffeeklatsch with R. K. Thorne, signing with Jamie Lackey, and giving an hour-long reading. Or rather, the slot for the reading is one hour, but this will include some time chatting, plus I will be giving away delicious UK chocolate! Please come to the reading if you're there :-). Here is [my schedule](#).

For those of you who won't be at Confluence, email me (marysoonlee@gmail.com) if you would like me to repeat the reading over Zoom at a future point. If there's sufficient interest, I'll try to do this.

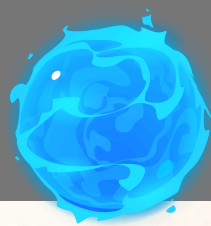
Assorted writing news:

- Sally Wiener Grotta posted an interview that we recorded for her series "What If? Why Not? How?"
- My poem Reaper, first published in Strange Horizons, has been reprinted in the 2026 Rhysling Anthology.
- My poem "What Black Holes Read," first published in Star*Line has been reprinted in Dwarf Stars 2026
- My poem "Twelve Words" appeared in Dreams and Nightmares. N.B. This poem is part of my new midquel to The Sign of the Dragon and I plan to read it at Confluence.
- My poem Robert Frost 2.0 appeared in Light.
- My poem Tools of the Trade appeared in Uppagus.
- My poem "So This Is The Middle Kingdom" appeared in Asimov's Science Fiction.
- Two poems, "Star Dragon" + "Black and White," both appeared in Star*Line.
- I belatedly realized that my poem "How I'm Doing" appeared in Small Wonders back in 2024 in their Year 2 Special Kickstarter Issue. I knew it was scheduled, but somehow lost track of it.
- Last but not least for the writing news, on August 15th I'll be running the eighth meeting of SFWA's poetry book club, where we will discuss Holly Lyn Walrath's chapbook Numinous Stones.



On the reading front, I loved two high fantasy novels, one over twenty years old and one brand new: Sharon Shinn's Mystic and Rider (2005) and L. E. Modesitt,

PARSEC MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS



Jr.'s Last of the First (2026). Plus I finished listening to a book I love but hadn't read for, oh, a while ... checks notes ... um, thirty years ago, Jane Austen's Northanger Abbey; I listened to Juliet Stevenson's narration. As ever, my book reviews may be [unearthed at Goodreads.](#)

Your Announcement Could Be Here!

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[Become a Parsec member for only \\$30/yr](#)

Email: parsecsigmanews@gmail.com

The Marvel Way

By: John R. Muth

I'm way behind on so much media that speaking about Marvel series that came out earlier this year seems like I've missed the boat...as it were. But, with a little extra time recently I managed to catch up on a couple shows that I think are worthwhile to talk about. Especially, because both of the shows (and I'd hoped to get through Iron Heart, but I didn't) focus on non-white characters. I know that that's a bit of a hot topic, and, at least before the new Spider-Man movie comes out, Marvel Studios is kind of being looked at as on a decline. But it's what interests me. I think representation, diversity of idea and thought, matters and as creatives we should be as invested in as we are in creating alien races and fantastical worlds.



With that, I was really excited to hear about the **Wonder Man** show, starring Yahya Abdul-Mateen III, that was going to be this Hollywood-centered idea. Wonder Man is one of the characters in comics I first became familiar with because my first comics came from a box my mom bought that was full of Avengers West Coast. Wonder Man was cool because he was also a movie star and basically Marvel's Superman. Yes, in the comics Simon Williams is white, but I think what this story does in changing the character to being Black considers what that change means. It

REVIEWS

isn't just changing the race, and it doesn't just take that change and pin on "modern adversities" that a Black man with superpowers may have. I think the greatest thing about this show was how much it played with everything. I cackled and guffawed at so much between everything that does mock Marvel and in a way, the MCU, itself, but also really just Hollywood itself. Without going too quickly into it, but the show nods at American Horror Story, Joe Pantoliono, Midnight Cowboy, Igby Goes Down, Shaka Kahn, Pretty Woman... and I don't even remember what else. Because the way most of the show is setup, I also feel like people would like it even if you don't really care about Marvel. And the only real thing you'd need to know/remember is that thirteen years ago Ben Kingsley played "The Mandarin."

The biggest issue I really had with the show was that it doesn't quite feel like a complete story. It's satisfying in where it ends, but it'd sort of be like ending the first Iron Man movie after Tony Stark escaped from his hostage situation...

The other show is **Echo**, which is a spin-off series based off a character who first appeared in the MCU in the Hawkeye limited series. In the comics, Echo (named Maya Lopez, as played by Alaqua Cox), first appeared in a late 90s/early 00s Daredevil comics where she worked as a sort of counter to Daredevil in that she's deaf—whereas (spoilers?) he's blind. This story is a sort of sequel to that series, but focuses on Echo going home—Oklahoma—and looking for her next move in taking down the Kingpin's organization.



The show centers Cox, who is indigenous, deaf, and has a prosthetic leg, who is a fairly new performer and there's elements of her performance that seems a little uncentered but is always engaging. Perhaps, it's the commitment to role and that so much of what Echo is revolves around action, is what balances that out. The other element, that (also more of a spoiler?) I really enjoyed was unlike so many other properties where mainstream organizations try to fit in other cultures, we wind up with an internal conflict that leads to the characters fighting amongst themselves. I kept waiting for that plot point to be introduced, but even better was that at a certain element there was a commitment from the folks choosing to be on the same side.

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The major issue that I had with the show comes from a major change to the Echo character (and a spoiler that I don't really want to go into) is a cultural issue that I feel like counters some of what I say above. And it comes down to wrapping these indigenous, or Wakandan, or Talokan, people in the power of their ancestors. I don't want to speak outside the realm of a culture I am not a part of, but I know that in watching the making-of for Echo, I was more moved by the focus of just the inclusion of Native peoples and their modern cultural placement, than I was by other elements of where the show goes.

At any rate, I'm still a fan of the Marvel Cinematic (and television?) Universe, despite falling behind on timely consumption. I'm glad these shows exist, and I think as a something I read mentioned—Marvel is at least one of the forefront companies who is attempting to, legitimately and respectfully, include these voices.

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

PARSEC EVENT IN AUGUST

August is the Annual Parsec Picnic



Date: Saturday, August 15, 2026

Noon to Dusk

Dormont Park, Large Pavilion

1801 Dormont Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216

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

(There will be no Zoom for the picnic.)

Burgers, hot dogs, buns, ice, some beverages and other assorted picnic necessities will be provided by Parsec. Friends of Parsec are welcome! All

Parsec meetings are free to attend & open to the public.

This is a potluck event. It is suggested that everyone bring a dish to share: salad, side dish, dessert or snacks/chips & dip.

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.

Vice President: Kathryn Smith. Treasurer: Larisa VanWinkle. Secretary: Laine Wilson.

At Large Members: Alan Bailey, Jamie Lackey, M. Christine Benner Dixon.

Executive Director: Diane Turnshek. Current BOD can be found on the [WEBSITE](http://www.parsec-sff.org)

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