

JOIN TOGETHER #1

Say What, Now...?

The almost-legendary yet still non-existent fannish pick-up band of musicians known as “The Inky Fingers” almost played a gig once. Well, “almost” is probably stretching it, they didn’t even get close, but conceptually it really could have happened.

The highlight of the set would have been a cover of the Who’s ‘Join Together’, with lyrics only slightly repurposed as “Join together with the fans”. If you squint your ears a bit, it’s not that difficult to hear it that way in the original: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_HDMCCLIGl4

Corflu is the convention at which fanzine fans do join together in celebration of our shared interest, so it does seem to be both an appropriate title for our Progress Reports, as well as, perhaps, a theme for the event itself.

Within this PR you’ll find the immediate salient information you’ll need to join, book rooms, and other such necessary detail, as well as some rather more interesting stuff from team members and others.

Nic Farey

General Enquiries: corflu31@gmail.com

The logo for Corflu 31 features the word 'Corflu' in a white, hand-drawn, slightly irregular font. The number '31' is positioned between the 'r' and 'l', rendered in a bold, red, stylized font that appears to be made of thick, brush-like strokes.

RICHMOND May 2-4 2014

FAQ

How do I join, and how much is it?

Full membership is \$80 US (£50 UK), supporting \$25 US (£15 UK). Supporting membership entitles you to a copy of any publications, probably a badge too, I shouldn't wonder, and of course helps us to fund the event!

You can PayPal your membership fee to either fringefaan@yahoo.com (US\$) or johnsilaz32@gmail.com, (UK£) (remember to mark as "gift"), and notify us of your preferred method of contact (email or snail).

Checks/cheques and the like should be payable to "Randy Byers" (US) and sent to 1013 N 36th St, Seattle WA 98103, or to "John Nielsen-Hall" (UK), Coachman's Cottage, Marrison Hill, Ramsbury, Wilts SN8 2HG.

I'm new here, what am I getting for my money?

Corflu's largest expenses are the Sunday Banquet and the consuite, with the program room usually coming in a semi-distant third. The Banquet, at which the annual FAAN awards are given out, and the Past President of the Fanwriters of America is elected is the capstone to any Corflu. The consuite is the social center, at which food and drink is available to all attendees in a congenial atmosphere. We'll have a single program stream running on Friday evening and Saturday, and there'll be some sort of convention publications too.

The what awards? Past President of who...?

We'll get to that later. (See pages 7-10)

OK, I'm in, how do I book a room?

John Nielsen-Hall writes:

The online hotel reservation page can be found at this link:

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/R/RICKSDT-COR-20140428/index.jhtml>

It will go straight to a page which has the negotiated room rate built in.

When you get to step 3, where you fill in your details etc., be aware that the phone number field is not only mandatory, but if you are in the UK you must enter your number with +44 replacing the 0. If you don't do this, when you press continue you will get the page back indicating a problem, but the only thing you may be able to see by way of explanation of the problem is a big notice about your H Honors number which you likely don't have, and certainly don't need. You will need to scroll down to locate the difficulty, which, if you are a poor old fart like me, will be the phone field outlined in red. I didn't do this, and complained mightily to Nic who passed my e-mail on to the

FAQ

Hilton Double Tree people, who, of course, could not understand my difficulty, and thought I was a nutter.

So, be instructed by my example.

Everything else was perfectly fine, and very easy to do - certainly easier than ringing the toll free number in the USA, although American mileage may vary.

Nic Farey notes:

The hotel itself was upgraded this year from a “regular” Hilton to a Doubletree which is rather nice for us since we already had our contract in place. In line with Hilton corporate policy, all rooms are non-smoking, but I’m assured that the windows do open.

We’d like you to get your bookings in reasonably early, since what we’ll pay for the facilities depends on the number of bed-nights we take up.

THE TEAM

KEN FORMAN is the co-chair for operations and programming

NIC FAREY is the co-chair for planning

JOHN NIELSEN-HALL is the Treasurer and European agent

RANDY BYERS is the Assistant Treasurer, North American agent, and in charge of special projects

AILEEN FORMAN is the Consuite Manager

NATHAN MADISON, CURT PHILLIPS and **NIGEL ROWE** are the Operations Assistants

KAT TEMPLETON is the Teck Wiz

ANDY HOOPER is the Awards Administrator

BILL BURNS is the Website Magister

PROGRAMMING

by **KEN FORMAN**

The programming at a typical Corflu is anything but typical. In the past, the program tracks have ranged from practically nonexistent to barely there to sufficient. Cor31u will be no different; falling somewhere between extremes.

For those of us who enjoy a gustatory delight, our Hospitality Room ghoddess, Aileen Forman, is toying with all her options; playing with our food, so to speak. Her experience with previous convention hospitality rooms coupled with her current profession (she owns a bakery) promises to shine. I know we'll all be in for a treat.

Of course, we'd like to host a sporting event. Such traditions are worth honoring. With the greying of fandom, the planned Ironman Triathlon required some reconsideration. A more appropriate Fannish Triathlon might be in order. Fans can compete in the triple-competition of Jumping to Conclusions, Carrying a Grudge, and Racing to Take Offense.

For the more academic-minded among us, a multi-track program of discussions, lectures and roundtables will fill the bill. The program committee has put together this list of potential program items. Others will follow:

- How Not to Do a Trivia Contest by Ken Forman
- Fanzines Without Staples, or the Art and Practice of Poetsards
- A Can of Beans: Typewriter Counterweight, Zombie Apocalypse Prep, or Both?
- Obscure Fan Funds, or How to Choose Between Katz or Farber for MAFF
- Post-It Note Fandom: Sticky Genius or Annoyingly Adhesive?
- I Want to Publish a Focal Point Fanzine – Who Do I Bribe?
- 1001 Uses For a Broken Mimeograph
- Twitter Fandom? 140 Characters Who Say Nothing
- Wdnr Spk 4r Fn n Profit, Or Y Vwls R Ovr8td
- Southern Fried Fandom
- The Corflu Game: When Did We Last Meet?
- Bus Tour to the White Mansion and other Fannish Landmarks

All kidding aside, one of the things that sets Corflu attendees apart from other convention members is our collective love of gabfests. We love to talk. That makes programming both easy, and essential. It's easy because most members can and will talk about most subjects, and at length. It's essential because communication is the heart and soul of our fandom.

We'll have many of the expected program items. No Corflu should be without such important items as an opening ceremony, Sunday banquet and annual business meeting (where we attend to such important topics as the selection of the Past President of fwa and next year's Corflu host city). We're working out the details of a fannish auction and a few other gems to boot. Keep your eyes peeled for new updates over the next few months.

RICHMOND

by **NATHAN MADISON**

The history of Richmond reaches back as far as the earliest days of America's founding; it was on May 24, 1607 that Christopher Newport travelled from the Jamestown outpost to an area at the falls of what would come to be called the James River, named in honor of England's King James I – ownership of this land would be contested, back and forth, between the European settlers and the Native American tribes, chiefly the Powhatan, who had inhabited the area for centuries. The land at the falls eventually became the property of the wealthy and royally-connected Byrd family, and in 1737, William Byrd II set aside some of his 26,000 acre estate for the founding of a city, to be named Richmond – again, the name came from England, in this case the area's semblance to the town of Richmond, just outside of London. In the succeeding years, the city grew, and in April of 1780, at the height of the American Revolution, the capital of Virginia was moved, from Williamsburg to Richmond, partly to shield the government from British attack; a year later, however, the city was raided and burned by British forces, led by none other than Benedict Arnold. The fire did not prove detrimental to the growth of the city, and it continued to expand following the conclusion of the Revolution.

In 1784, George Washington proposed the creation of a canal that would connect Richmond to the ever-expanding frontier westward, to the Ohio River, constituting a major thoroughfare for travel, communication and commerce. The James River Company was founded to facilitate the creation of this project, and it was the segment of this canal that ran through the city that would power many emerging Richmond industries, soon to make Richmond one of the industrial centers of the South – one of the most important being the Gallego Mills, for a time the largest flour and milling operation in the world. Immigrants, primarily from Germany and Ireland (particularly after the Irish Potato Famine in the 1840s) came to Richmond to both work on the canal, and to set up their own businesses, adding further social and economic diversity to the city; unfortunately, a significant portion of Richmond's population was in bondage, and just as many slaves contributed to the infrastructural growth of the city as any other group.

With the onset of the American Civil War, the capital of the Confederate States of America was relocated from Montgomery to Richmond, following the secession of Virginia from the Union in April of 1861. Richmond was chosen for its strategic and historical importance, but also for its industry: Richmond's premiere iron foundry, the Tredegar Iron Works (founded in 1837 on some of the earliest land to be sold by the Byrd family) was the largest such iron establishment in the South, and produced a majority of the cannonry for the Confederacy, as well as other war-related items. Many of the most important battles of the war took place around Richmond, such as the Peninsula Campaign of 1862, and the Battle of Cold Harbor in 1864; for the entirety of the war, Richmond remained a central target of the Federal forces. The surrender of General Lee at Appomattox in April of 1865 hastened the end of the war, and the Reconstruction period saw the rebuilding of Virginia infrastructure and the struggle to cope with new social upheavals, following the abolition of slavery and the establishment of the military government, which stayed in effect until the early

1870s. The succeeding years saw further resurgence from the devastation of the war years: of note, the first successful electric trolley system in the world appeared in Richmond in 1888, under the aegis of the Richmond Union Passenger Railway.

By the turn of the century, Richmond was still an economic powerhouse of the South, with iron, agriculture, and tobacco still comprising a great deal of the city, and the state of Virginia's, output. The Tredegar Iron Works were still in operation, for many years the single largest employer in the city, and an outgrowth of the Tredegar, the Richmond Locomotive Works produced thousands of locomotive engines that were sent across the country, and across the globe – the engine that carried the body of President Franklin Roosevelt across the country was created in Richmond, as was the engine that carried Lenin back to Russia following the Russian Revolution in 1917. While the tobacco industry remained, and has remained, strong, many industrial firms closed shop by the middle of the twentieth century; as the years progressed, Richmond became home to an increasing number of Fortune 500 companies, including Altria, Dominion Resources, MeadWestvaco, and Genworth Financial.

Today, industry is not as prominent as in days past; modern Richmond is the site of many corporate headquarters; the home of a thriving college and art community thanks to the presence of Virginia Commonwealth University; and a city wherein its varied historical epochs are well-recorded and respected, from St. John's Church (the site of Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty, or Give Me Death" speech, helping to ignite the American Revolution), to the Edgar Allen Poe Museum (the famed author spent much of his youth in the River City), to the White House of the Confederacy and Historic Tredegar, and more.

FANTHOLOGY

by MURRAY MOORE

Help Wanted...

For the fanthology which I am editing, to be distributed during Corflu, then after Corflu via efanzines.com, I need your help.

My hope is that members of the fanzine community --I'm looking at you-- will share with me your favourite reading and viewing in fanzines published in 2013.

Crowdsourcing is wanted; your input; your Likes.

It's like a Kickstarter project, but you help make it happen without contributing money.

I don't read everything posted at www.efanzines.com. And I know that good writing and art appears elsewhere, in fanzines not available via efanzines; in APAs to which I do not belong; in mailing lists to which I do not subscribe; blogs; websites.

Goal of my Fanthology: a curated best of fan-drawn and fan-written creativity unleashed on the world in 2013: columns/articles/reviews/memoirs/letters of comment/interior art/covers/lists and Etc..

Recommending for Fanthology 2014 is similar to deciding what to vote in the FAAn Awards.

Let me know as you go or give me your Best of 2013 list after Dec. 31.

murrayamoore@gmail.com

2014 FAAN Awards

by ANDY HOOPER

After an exchange of ideas, the Corflu 31 committee has decided to present the same slate of Fanzine Activity Achievement Awards in 2014 as the Corflu XXX committee did in 2013. We liked last year's categories, and finding no consensus as to how they might be changed, felt that it was perfectly acceptable to present them again. Voting will open on January 1st, 2014, and close on April 1st. Paper ballots may be submitted by mail to award administrator Andy Hooper at 11032 30th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98125, or you may vote via email to fanmailaph@aol.com. Voting is open to everyone with an interest in fanzines, and all ballots are counted, regardless of their content. Therefore, "eligibility" is far less of an issue than with other awards given by science fiction fandom. But the FAAn awards are still intended to recognize specific areas of fan activity, so a brief description of the categories as we see them follows.

2014 FAAn Award Categories, listed alphabetically:

Best Artist or Cartoonist:

Best Artist has been a part of the awards since their first incarnation in the 1970s, and is usually one of the most enthusiastically-contested categories. All the FAAn Awards are intended to recognize creative efforts made in science fiction fanzines, so this award is intended to recognize the Best Artist active in fanzines in 2013. It is left to the voter to define the word "Artist" in this context, but most choose to recognize illustration and other non-textual contributions to contemporary fanzines.

Best Fanzine Cover

This was a new category in 2013, and was received very warmly by FAAn award voters. Bill Burns was kind enough to present a gallery of 2012 fanzine covers published at efanzines.com, and will hopefully have a similar summary available before the end of January. No distinction of format or presentation is germane to this or any other FAAn award, and this category is also intended to recognize work published in fanzines in 2013. Identifying both the artist that created it and the specific issue of the fanzine one wishes to recognize is always very helpful to the award administrator.

Best Genzine:

The definitions of "Genzine" and "Personal Fanzine" were perhaps the most difficult issue involved in the 2013 voting, as some titles received votes in both categories. For the purpose of this award, we define "Genzine" as a fanzine created through collaborative effort by multiple contributors and/or editors. No distinction of style or subject matter is intended, and only the cooperative nature of the title marks it as different from a "Personal Fanzine" (see below). If you still don't know how to list your favorite zine, I'd recommend asking the editor of the fanzine(s) in question for their opinion.

Harry Warner Jr. Memorial Award for Best Letterhack:

Correspondence is fanzine fandom's primary currency, and without it, we would quickly lose interest and move on to something that elicited a more dependable response. This is consistently one of the most popular categories, with choices recorded on more than 80% of all ballots. It has been pointed out that there is perhaps some redundancy in having both this and the "Best Writer" award, but I don't believe they have ever been won by the same person in the same year.

Lifetime Achievement Award:

This award will not appear on the ballot, and will be chosen by a jury assembled by Corflu 31 Chairman Nic Farey. The previous recipients are Elinor Busby, Earl Kemp, Shelby Vick, Ted White and Art Widner. The 2014 Award will also go to someone who has spent their life creating fanzines and participating in the community they inspired.

Best Personal Fanzine:

For the purpose of this award, we define “Personal Fanzine” as any title principally created by a single editor and publisher. Almost all such fanzines receive contributions from other writers, at least in the form of letters of comment, and they very frequently include graphic content created by artists other than the editor. But the majority of the written content in a Personal Fanzine is created by its editor, and theirs is its dominant “voice.” If you’re confused as to whether a title should be considered a Personal Fanzine or a Genzine, you should consult its editor.

Best Single Issue:

What was the best fanzine of any kind published in 2013? That’s what this award asks you to decide. All fanzines published in 2013 are open for consideration for this award, including fanthologies, clubzines, continuing titles, one-shots, fan fund and convention progress reports, weblogs, podcasts – anything you think of as a fanzine. If you vote for a title which produced more than one issue in 2013, be sure to indicate the issue you mean to vote for.

Best Website:

Determining what constitutes a “fanzine website” is probably the most semantically challenging task implicit in the FAAn awards ballot. Many are analogous to a single fanzine title, while others host dozens of individual fanzines. It has been helpful in the past to include the name of the web master or editor as well as the title or domain name of the site to make sure that your vote is counted as intended.

Best Writer

Like “Best Artist or Cartoonist,” the “Best Writer” award has survived unchanged from the original FAAN awards of the 1970s. It is one of the most competitive categories, with the smallest average margin of victory among any of the balloted awards. The award is intended to recognize work done in 2013, although in practice many winners have had a multi-year record of exemplary contribution to science fiction fanzines.

Voting Details:

Fan editors are invited to reproduce the ballot which will be posted at Corflu.org after the 1st of January. Each of the eight awards open to public vote will feature three blanks for the voters’ first, second and third choices in each category. A first choice will be assigned a value of 3 points, a second place vote will be worth 2 points, and third place worth 1. The title or person receiving the most points within each category will win the award, regardless of the distribution of their points. Results will be announced on Sunday morning at Corflu 31.

The logo for the Fan Writers of America (fwa) is displayed in a lowercase, handwritten-style font. The letters are black and set against a light red background.

by **TED WHITE**

The Fan Writers of America were born in a serendipitous moment at a party in my room one night at the 1984 LACon. The room was packed with fans and the air was thick with smoke (the hotel's airconditioning system endlessly recycled the room's stale and increasingly smoky air for the entire weekend) and as if by magic the smoke shaped itself into thick, balloony letters which hovered over our heads and spelled out "fwa." It required only moments for us all to realize that we were present at the actual formation of the Fan Writers of America. I called up the already sleeping Lucy Huntzinger and told her, "Fanhistory is in the making! You need to be here!" And soon she joined us, a bit bleary-eyed but brightening at the sight of Fandom's Very Best, murkily outlined in the smoke.

It was immediately obvious to us that:

1. For purposes of fannish inclusiveness (and perhaps American imperialism), "America" is defined as "the entire world."
2. Generally "fanwriting" is defined as "writing by a fan," and its preferred venue is fanzines, but not exclusively so. (In 1984 the internet was still to come for most of us.)
3. If you do fanwriting and think you could be a member of the FWA, then you **are** a member. It's that simple.
4. The FWA has no current president, and never has had one. All of FWA's presidents are past presidents at the time of their selection.

In the Early Years past presidents for the years preceding FWA's founding (going back one more year in each subsequent year's selection) were selected at Worldcons. But quorums of assembled members of FWA were less easily assembled than they had been in 1984, and after the 1986 Worldcon this idea was abandoned. It was decided that the membership of each year's Corflu represented the best quorum (all members of Corflu are considered members of FWA) and that the previous year's president of FWA would be selected at each Corflu. Selecting pre-1980 presidents would not continue. (Occasional exceptions have been made, such as John Foyster's posthumous selection as president for 1975.) The selection process has taken place, beginning with the second Corflu, at the Sunday brunch-banquet—where all of Corflu is assembled and can both nominate and vote. I run the selection process with an iron fist (in a velvet glove).

PAST PRESIDENTS of fwa:

- LACon, 1984: Avedon Carol, 1983
- Corflu 2, 1985: Suzle Tompkins, 1984; Terry Carr, 1982
- Corflu 3, 1986: Lucy Huntzinger, 1985; Gary Farber, 1981
- Confederation, Atlanta, 1986: Ted White, 1980
- Corflu 4, 1987: rich brown, 1986
- Corflu 5, 1988: Judith Hanna & Joseph Nicholas, 1987; Stu Shiffman, 1979
- Corflu 6, 1989: Terry Carr, per documentation found by Geri Sullivan
- Corflu 7, 1990: Harry Warner, 1989
- Corflu 8, 1991: Bill Bowers, 1990
- Corflu 9, 1992: Robert Lichtman, 1991
- Corflu 10, 1993: Bob Tucker, 1992
- Corflu 11, 1994: Jack Speer, 1993
- Corflu 12, 1995: Charles Burbee, 1994
- Corflu 13, 1996: Bob Shaw & Peter Roberts, 1995
- Corflu 14, 1997: Bill Rotsler, 1996; Lee Hoffman, 1991
- Corflu 15, 1998: Greg Pickersgill, 1997
- Corflu 16, 1999: Shelby Vick, 1998
- Corflu 17, 2000: Geri Sullivan, 1999; Walt Willis, 1952
- Corflu 18, 2001: Art Widner, 2000
- Corflu 19, 2002: Eve and John Harvey, 2001
- Corflu 20, 2003: Mark Plummer, 2002; John Foyster, 1975
- Corflu 21, 2004: Arnie & Joyce Katz, 2003
- Corflu 22, 2005: Bruce Gillespie, 2004; Buz Busby, 1960
- Corflu 23, 2006: Mike Glicksohn, 2005
- Corflu 24, 2007: Pat Virzi, 2006
- Corflu 25, 2008: Dan Steffan, 2007
- Corflu 26, 2009: Andy Hooper, 2008
- Corflu 27, 2010: D. West, 2009
- Corflu 28, 2011: Spike, 2010
- Corflu 29, 2012: Earl Kemp, 2011
- Corflu 30, 2013: Roy Kettle, 2012

The Corflu Fifty

by **ROB JACKSON**

A fan fund specially for Corflu:

In February 2007, just after Corflu Quire in Austin, Rich Coad set up an email list inviting fanzine fans to join “a group of donors, each willing to donate \$25 or £15 per year, for the express purpose of bringing persons to Corflu who otherwise could not attend. This idea grew out of the successful funds to bring Bruce Gillespie and William Breiding to Corflu Titanium and to bring Harry Bell to Corflu Quire. At Corflu Quire additional names were mentioned for fans we would like to see at Corflu but who are unable to attend for a variety of reasons.”

This list is called the Corflu Fifty. Though it may not have fifty actual members yet, those on the list have been very faithful in donating cash to support travel by deserving fans to each of the six Corflus held since. The target has been \$1250 each year, to help a fanzine fan who has earned the respect of their peers and would really be welcome at that year’s Corflu, but couldn’t otherwise make the journey.

Rich Coad set the group and the e-list up, but the US Administrator is now Curt Phillips, who came to Corflu Zed in 2009. I have been the UK Administrator since the group started. The Corflu Fifty’s recipients are chosen through discussion on the group’s email list –

the_corflu_fifty@yahoo.com (if you're typing, note the underlines as separators). Then Curt and I collect the cash together from the membership about six months before the trip, so the recipients can make their travel plans and get best value from advance bookings.

We have three times managed to support Transatlantic trips, but this coming year is only the second time we have been ambitious enough to support a couple rather than just an individual. The first time was back on 2008 when air travel was cheaper. So we may need extra cash to support Dan & Lynn!

At current (October 2013) prices, two return flights from Portland to Washington DC will set us back between \$610 and \$750. So please all, get your fund-raising boots on.

There will be an online auction this autumn, with some very rare stfnal and fannish goodies, run primarily by Curt but with assistance from me on the UK end of things. Watch this space – and buy buy buy! And if you have anything fannish – fanzines, con publications, memorabilia – or science-fictional you want to send to a good home while raising cash for a good cause, please contact Curt or myself, by email in the first instance. Email Curt at absarka_prime at comcast dot net, or me, Rob Jackson, at: jacksonshambrook at uwclub dot net.

If you not only want to help out financially, but also to help influence who gets the group's support next time round, please join! Go to: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/the_corflu_fifty/ where there should be a Join This Group option.

CORFLU FIFTY BENEFICIARIES:

| YEAR | WINNER | FROM | TO | VENUE |
|------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 2008 | Steve and Elaine Stiles | Maryland, US | Corflu Silver | Las Vegas, NV |
| 2009 | Curt Phillips | Virginia, US | Corflu Zed | Seattle, WA |
| 2010 | Earl Kemp | Mexico | Corflu Cobalt | Winchester, UK |
| 2011 | Dave Hicks | UK | e-Corflu Vitus | Sunnyvale, CA |
| 2012 | Shelby Vick | Florida, US | Corflu Glitter | Las Vegas, NV |
| 2013 | Rob Hansen | UK | Corflu XXX | Portland, OR |
| 2014 | Dan and Lynn Steffan | Oregon, US | Corflu 31 | Richmond, VA |

Corflu 31 Members

Tom Becker

Sandra Bond

Claire Brialey

Warren Buff

Randy Byers

Pat Charnock (S)

Rich Coad

Michael Dobson

Nic Farey

Aileen Forman

Ken Forman

Keith Freeman

Wendy Freeman

Sumner Hunnewell

Rob Jackson

Robert Lichtman (S)

Frank Lunney

Nathan Madison

Gary Mattingly

Patty Mattingly

Mike Meara

Pat Meara

Mary Ellen Moore

Murray Moore

Audrey Nielsen-Hall

John Nielsen-Hall

Curt Phillips

Mark Plummer

Nigel Rowe

Spike

Dan Steffan

Lynn Steffan

Elaine Stiles

Steve Stiles

Geri Sullivan

Pat Virzi

Ted White