



# Chiflu – Corflu 33

Chicago 2016 – May 13-15



Progress Report 2

April 2016

(RIP Art. A trufan and a true friend to us all.)

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# Home Stretch

Well here we are one month out from Corflu 2016. This is the "now it gets real" moment for any convention. The list of to-dos gets longer every day, especially as things previously neglected suddenly rear their head ("Can I park your car for \$60 a day sir?" and "I'm sorry do your attendees expect chairs in the conference room?"). The last one being a real question asked many years ago as we setup a con venue. It has been a while since I last organized a con, and those are two perfect reasons why that has remained true! But, the end is nigh, and we will have a "great time" - to paraphrase a wannabe contemporary politician, we will also have "the best time." Thank you President, er.. I mean King Trump for those inspiring words to live and plan cons by.

This progress report sets the tone for what to expect at "the Chiflu". Conveniently hosted in downtown Chicago, there's a wealth of things to distract you from the actual con, and I implore you to take full advantage of the opportunity to enjoy our fine city. Except of course when there's programming happening. It is hard to walk around Chicago and not be inspired by the amazing architecture, public art, friendly locals, and sheer exuberance of it all. Also, spring has gotten off to a "great" start, and we are fully expecting "great" things in mid-May. If cruising Lake Michigan on a boat, relaxing at a beachside cafe, or sipping cool drinks on the 96th floor of the Hancock Tower looking down at other people in boats or sitting on the beach, is your thing, well Corflu 33 has you covered. Let's be honest, who doesn't want to read fanzines while also cruising the Chicago River, with dramatic narration of the exploits of Al Capone ringing in your ears?

Speaking of which, several special publications have been planned for Corflu, along with the usual batch of new fanzines and ringing promises of "real soon now". The tradition of a fanzine launch party will be continued on the opening night, along with the annual FAAn awards celebrating the best of the previous year's fannish endeavours.

Kicking things off before the convention, will be a welcome of sorts for everyone who is around on the Thursday evening. This will be held in the palatial downtown party pad of Kiwifan, aka me. Watch out for a personal email invitation with details as we get closer. Hopefully the Thursday night shenanigans will flow uninterrupted into Friday night, providing the perfect start to the con. After all who needs sleep at Corflu?

Nigel Rowe

Lone wolf roaming the Midwestern plains

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# GRANT CANFIELD, Boy, Man, and Fan

By Dan Steffan

Born in the Midwest, Grant Canfield grew up in Illinois and was educated in Kansas, where he studied architecture and fell in love. But the Age of Aquarius soon beckoned him to come to California, where the exotic allure of San Francisco proved too strong to resist. Once he was reincarnated as a Californian, his talent began to truly blossom. The years spent reading comic books in the back room of his Grandpop's drug store were finally beginning to pay off and his imagination started spilling out onto the pages of sketchbooks and napkins, like water from an open faucet.

Fortunately, his newfound burst of creativity coincided with his discovery of science fiction fandom, which he had somehow managed to encounter in San Francisco. Now working as an architectural draftsman, Grant's extracurricular cartooning displayed a precision of line that was unique to fan art. Though still a neophyte as the new decade dawned, his work was already better than many of his contemporaries. From his very first published cartoons it was obvious that he was not just another fanboy doodler.

Grant was already on his way towards the top of the heap, which was no mean feat in 1970, a time when fanzines were chock-full of good artwork. There were professional artists, like Jack Gaughan and George Barr and Vaughn Bode, contributing right alongside dozens of the amateurs -- the so-called fan artists. It was a period of great creativity in fanzines, propelled by the widespread use of electrostencils and offset printing, fan artists like Tim Kirk, Bill Rotsler, James Schull, Steve Stiles, Arthur Thomson, Ken Fletcher, Doug Lovenstein, Joe Staton, Alexis Gilliland, Tom Foster, Jay Kinney, Jonh Ingham, Alpajpuri, Alicia Austin, Steve Fabian, Dany Frolich, Mike Gilbert, Richard Bergeron, Ross Chamberlain, Jim MacLeod, and many others -- including Grant -- were able to flourish and perfect their craft. As a result, the pages of fanzines were, for the first time, filled with an overwhelmingly impressive display of talent and wit.

This was the same period of time that I first stuck my toe into that very crowded pool of fan artists and I can tell you from my own experience that it was a not an easy pack to run with. Unlike Grant, I was not a brilliant cartoonist when I started, but the presence of artists like him, and the other amazing scribblers mentioned above, made me work harder to improve what I drew. I hoped someday to be as good as Grant was. If I could accomplish that, I would be satisfied. (I'm still trying.)



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Fortunately for me, drawing ability was not a prerequisite for being part of the fan artist's club. (There's no accounting for taste, I guess.) I worked hard to live up to my competition and I believe that my attempts to reach higher, into the realm where guys like Grant and Tim and Steve lived, helped push me to work harder and to be more critical about what I considered to be a finished piece of art. Meanwhile, Grant Canfield was becoming one of the preeminent fan artist of the 1970s.

Before that decade was over, Grant's artwork would appear in almost every fanzine imaginable. He sent work to the biggest and the best and the little guys, too. His drawings graced the covers of some of the decade's most memorable fanzines, like *SFR*, *Granfalloon*, *Energumen*, *Outworlds*, *Mota*, *Prehensile*, *Sandworm*, and many others. In fact, his association with Richard Geis' *Science Fiction Review* included some of his earliest fan art and some of his last. He did covers for all of Geis' various permutations, including *Richard E Geis*, *The Alien Critic* and at least two incarnations of *SFR* itself.

In recognition for all of his great efforts to fill the pages of fanzines with wonderful drawings, Grant was nominated for the Fan Artist Hugo Award seven different times. Nevertheless, he was denied his rightful tribute on each occasion -- a slight that unfortunately stoked in him an ember of discontent about fandom's fickle ways. By 1980 his interest in fannish immortality was beginning to wane and he began to focus his interests elsewhere. Though he agreed to run as a TAFF candidate the following year, his interests began to change away from science fiction fandom.

He had published a much admired little fanzine called *Waste Paper* during his years of intense fan activity, as well as written numerous articles for other editors. His writing chops were the equal of his drawing skills, perhaps even better. His memoir-style of writing was packed with self-deprecating humor and an innate ability to paint a picture with words. Like the man himself, his writing was witty, snarky, and a little smutty. His prose was pretty impeccable, too, inspired, no doubt, by the best sf and mystery writers of the day. For an example of his writing, one need go no further than the latest issue of Robert Lichtman's *Trap Door* to see for yourself.

While retaining contact with many of the friends he'd made in fandom, Grant faded from most fannish pursuits by the mid-1980s, though loose pieces of his artwork continued floating through the pages of fanzines for years afterwards. By that time he had published countless pieces of fan art, more than 300 professional gag cartoons, illustrated a few books, tried to sell a syndicated comic strip, all the while becoming more and more involved in his work as an architect.

He had parlayed his training, skill, and experience into a burgeoning career as an architect who specialized in designing laboratories, clean rooms, and other scientific and manufacturing facilities. As his reputation grew, so did the demands on his time and eventually his cartooning was pushed aside to make room for his work as a designer, a project manager, and, at one point, a partner in one of San Francisco's preeminent architectural outfits.

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Despite his busy work life, his fannish heart continued to burn brightly underneath those gaudy Hawaiian shirts and over the years he still was able to find time to devote himself to his love of books and pulp magazines. Inspired after seeing Frank Robinson's legendary pulps collection -- each as close to "mint" as possible -- Grant vowed to follow in the great man's footsteps as best he could. (That quest also led to an eBay account where he sells off discarded publications, sloughing them off for loose pool money.) By the time he retired a few years ago, his Bay Area home was packed floor to ceiling with his amazing hoardings of books, mags, comics, fanzines, and smut.

Since retiring, he has moved into a smaller living space -- it's still floor to ceiling, though, if you were worried -- where he now spends his time playing poker or bent over a pool table. Random acts of cartooning have not, as yet, popped up in his golden years. The ink in his veins has gotten thinner than his hair and while I doubt there is much of a chance that it will return, we can all hope. (Maybe if we all clap?)

In the meantime, there will always be guys like me who have hidden a few unpublished things amongst the rubble that is my basement, though every now and then one of them surfaces and makes its way into print. And when they do, it all comes back to you -- how good he was, how funny he was, and how much fandom misses his talents and his sense of humor. Without it I would never have been able to believe that I too could be a fan artist and a fan writer worthy to be mentioned in his company. The funny thing is, I think I did it. I became an accomplished cartoonist because I had people like Grant Canfield to point me in the right direction and kick me in the ass when I fucked up.

I guarantee that you'll enjoy his company when you see him, and if you've not had the pleasure of meeting him before, rest assured that he will make you feel like you're always welcome at his table, and make you feel like you always have been. And if he nods out while you're talking to him, just smile and creep silently away because at his age, he needs to *sleep it off* at least five times a day. (Feel free to write on his face, however. He *loves* that.)



Grant is easy going and always ready to hear what you have to say, and he'll even welcome the stories of your days on the farm, your Army years, your theory about pigeons carrying coconuts, or even that time you pubbed your ish. But whatever you do, don't ask him to decorate your name badge that makes him very angry. And despite all the nice things I've just written, you wouldn't like him when he's angry because he might start talking about politics and then you'll really be in for it. You've been warned.

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## Top 10 Chicago Architecture Places to Visit

**This tour starts outside the Club House Quarters Hotel on Adams Street.**

Tour route should take about 90 minutes, without taking into account visits inside buildings, or extended selfie sessions longer than 5 minutes. It is recommended to not linger at the first few stops, as these are the easiest places to spend more time at later. A rule of thumb for visiting Chicago historic (and new) buildings, is that you need to step inside to fully enjoy the building. Most buildings have wonderful lobby areas, and new buildings by law are required to spend a significant amount of the construction cost on publicly accessible art. The brief notes here do not do full justice to everything that might be encountered.

**Federal Center - 219 South Dearborn Street (Completed 1974)**

**Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, architect**

Walk east to the corner of Adams and S. Dearborn. The 4.6 acre Federal Center, is composed of a 30 story federal courthouse, a 45-story U.S. government office building and a single story post office. Note the orderliness and geometric symmetry of Mies' design (the courthouse façade is square and the office building's height is twice its width.) Additionally, the lines of the granite plaza stones align with the façade of the buildings. In stark contrast to the grey tones and orderly lines of Mies is Alexander Calder's bright red and curved *Flamingo* sculpture in the plaza.

**Chase Tower and Plaza - 10 South Dearborn Street (1969)**

**C. F. Murphy Associates, and Perkins and Will, architects**

Turn left and walk north along Dearborn to the next block (Monroe). The Chase Tower, with its gracefully upward sloping walls, is a classic Chicago icon. It stands 850 feet and is the tallest building within the Loop's elevated 'L' tracks. Originally the First National Bank of Chicago building, the bank has undergone numerous ownership changes (First National, then Bank One, now Chase). The sunken plaza is a favorite spot for lunch breaks. On the east side of the plaza you'll find a large wall mosaic by famed artist Marc Chagall called *Four Seasons*. Originally this square was occupied by the massive Hotel Chicagoan, the site

of the 2nd Worldcon in 1940. Later in 1952, The Hotel Morrison was split off from the Chicagoan and played host to the 10th Worldcon.

### **The Sullivan Center / Carson Pirie Scott & Company - 1 South State Street (1902)**

**Louis H. Sullivan, architect**

Continue walking north on Dearborn to Madison Street. Turn right and walk one block to the east side of State Street. Built for retailers Schlesinger & Mayer and later sold to Carson Pirie Scott & Co., this highly ornamental building was Louis Sullivan's last significant project in Chicago. Be sure to check out the building's intricate ornamentation, particularly surrounding the entryway on the southeast corner of State and Madison. The building, now called The Sullivan Center, has been transformed with retailer Target occupying the first two floors. On the second floor corner, above the main entrance, by the illuminated Target logo, there is a comfortable resting place with historic building photos. It is also possible to look north, south, east and west from this vantage point, as this is the Ground Zero of the Chicago grid street plan (Madison/State).

### **Reliance Building - 32 North State Street (1895)**

**Burnham & Root, architects**

Just one block north of Carson Pirie Scott, on the southwest corner of State and Washington is the Reliance Building (now the Hotel Burnham). This 15-story building, designed by John Root and Charles Atwood after John Root's sudden death, is considered the first steel and glass skyscraper, and the forefather of the modern 20th century skyscraper. Its skeletal steel frame construction bears the weight of the building, giving it a delicate feeling and allowing the walls to be constructed with large windows (perfect for letting natural light into the building's offices).

### **Marshall Field's / Macy's - 111 North State Street (1907)**

**Daniel Burnham & Co., architects**

Across the intersection is the imposing edifice of Marshall Field's. More than a century after the likes of Potter Palmer and Marshall Field built State Street into a major shopping thoroughfare, this famed street remains a vibrant shopping district. On the northeast corner of State and Washington stands the Marshall Field & Co. building (controversially renamed as Macy's). Look for the Great Clocks at Washington and Randolph on State Street, which are popular Chicago landmarks along with the large seasonal store window displays. To fully appreciate this building's stately elegance, you'll need to walk inside. Named to the National Register of Historic Places, the multi-story atriums include Corinthian columns, skylights and the world's largest Tiffany Dome vaulted ceiling.

Back outside, cast your gaze northwards and you will see the famous Chicago Theatre, anchoring the main theater district. Take full advantage of getting the perfect picture of the majestic sign. Everyone

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does. Free daily tours are conducted and are well worth the time, especially to hear old haunted theatre stories.

When looking to the northwest corner of Randolph and State Streets (Old Navy store) the building was built 10 years ago to emulate the look and feel of the Reliance Building. Unfortunately another the Block 37 mall has interposed itself between the two, somewhat spoiling the mirror effect.

**Chicago Cultural Center - 78 East Washington (at Michigan) - 1897**  
**Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, architects**

Turn right at State and Randolph and walk east towards, and under the 'L' tracks. You'll pass Intelligentsia Coffee, a home-grown hipster café, with an impressive selection of brews. Suitably refreshed, continue walking to Michigan Avenue. Originally built as the Chicago central library, The Cultural Center is also a monument to the Civil War's Grand Army of the Republic. The limestone building uses a Greek/Roman motif, which became very popular for public buildings after the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. The library was subsequently moved in 1991, and the building now serves as home for the Chicago City Office of Cultural Affairs, and regularly has special exhibits in its galleries. Be sure to step inside to see the magnificently restored 38-foot Tiffany stained-glass dome (south side of building) with some 30,000 pieces of glass. On the north side of the building is an equally impressive 40-foot-diameter dome with some 50,000 pieces of glass in an intricate Renaissance pattern. (Admission is FREE, Monday through Sunday.)

**Carbide and Carbon Building - 230 North Michigan Avenue (1929)**  
**Burnham Brothers, architects**

Cross over and walk north on Michigan Avenue two blocks, passing the 150 North Michigan Avenue Building with its unique diamond shaped top (best seen from across Michigan Avenue). Continue north to the Carbide and Carbon Building, and one of Chicago's best examples of Art Deco architecture. The facade is made of polished black granite, black marble, dark green terra-cotta and gold leaf. Originally a 37-story office building, this beautifully restored (2004) structure is now the Hard Rock Hotel Chicago. On the other side of Michigan Avenue in the thicket of tall buildings, is hidden the Hyatt Regency Chicago, host venue for the 1982, 1991, 2000 and 2012 Worldcons. In the distance you will see the Hancock Tower looming over the northern end of the "Magnificent Mile", which is the other name for Michigan Avenue.

**Marina City - 300 North State Street (river's edge) - 1964**  
**Bertrand Goldberg Associates, architects**

Take a sharp turn left of the Hard Rock hotel, and walk west along East Wacker Place, soon you will see the two corn-cob-like 65-story residential structures called Marina City. Walk across the complicated intersections, and the Wabash Bridge to the other side of the Chicago River. Incredibly

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innovative when completed in 1964, Marina City was truly a city within a city, with 896 apartments (now condos), an office building (now a hotel) and a theater (now the House of Blues). There is actually a marina at river level. Marina City achieved landmark status in 2015. Keep an eye out for the unique one-person elevator platform to take parking attendants to parked cars. Hint, it is near the entrance ramp to the House of Blues which is nestled at the base of the right tower.

**Jewelers' Building – 35 East Wacker (1927)**  
**Giaver and Dinkelberg, Architects**

Walk back south across the State Street bridge, taking great care not to look at the Trump Tower with its controversial sign at eye-level. But do take note of the impressive skyscraper valley that lines both sides of the river. Diagonally opposite Trump is the Jewelers' Building. Another stunning example of Chicago architecture and a National Historic Place. For many years it was the tallest building outside of New York City. Aside from the four turrets and the dome, the building has achieved notoriety for its association with Al Capone, who took advantage of its innovative car elevator to rise 23 stories above the prying eyes of the law, and the Stratosphere Lounge speakeasy during the Prohibition era. The building was spectacularly destroyed during the "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" movie, and had a starring role in Batman Begins. A small footnote: Corflu 33 was conceived here on the 20<sup>th</sup> floor during many long lunch breaks.

**Now navigate back through the city...**

After admiring the Jeweler's Building, walk back to the northern side of Wacker Drive, and take the stairs down to the Vietnam Memorial at the river's edge. Keep walking west along the Riverwalk with the Trump Tower behind you. Opened in 2015, the Riverwalk is still being constructed, but is fast becoming the go-to place during the summer with numerous bars, restaurants and entertainment options. Keep walking under the Clark Street Bridge and then climb the stairs or ramp to head back to street level. You should find yourself at Clark and West Wacker.

**Chicago Temple Building – 77 W. Washington (1924)**  
**Holabird and Roche, Architects**

Walk south down Clark Street for two blocks, passing City Hall and the open-air Picasso sculpture (1967) in Daley Plaza at Washington Street. The Plaza was the setting for the penultimate scene of the Blues Brothers film. At Washington and Clark is the First United Methodist Church, with the tallest chapel in the world at over 400 feet. Tours of the church are offered daily at 2pm. Step inside and admire the ground floor sanctuary which seats 1000 congregants, remember this huge open area has a skyscraper sitting on top! A sculpture by Joan Miró "*Miró's Chicago*" sits in a courtyard alongside.

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There is an interesting rare coins store at the base of the Temple (Harlan J. Berk), with an impressive range of coins, Roman and Greek antiquities, and political buttons.

Keep walking south along Clark Street for two short blocks and you will find yourself walking past the Chase Tower and back to the Club Quarters at Adams and Clark.

**Optional Neighborhood Tour** – About 45 minutes, stop and go. Allow 1 hour extra for Sears Tower.

**The Rookery - 209 South LaSalle Street (1888)**

**Burnham & Root, architects**

The building to the right of the Club Quarters on Adams at the east side of LaSalle Street is the magical building The Rookery with an ornate exterior. The famous lobby is everyone's favorite, with a grand staircase and glass skylight over the two-story atrium. The building's open center and white terra cotta walls allow natural light into the building's offices while illuminating the glass skylight. Frank Lloyd Wright added to John Root's design when he remodeled the lobby in 1907.

**Willis (formerly Sears) Tower - 233 South Wacker Drive (1973)**

**Skidmore Owings & Merrill, architects**

Keep walking west along Adams, passing under the 'L' tracks and soon you can look up at the Sears Tower. At 110 stories and 1,450 feet (over ¼ mile!), this is the second tallest building in the United States, recently losing its tallest title to One World Trade Center in New York. (The spire on One World Trade Center made the difference! But, Willis Tower still has the highest occupied floor at 110.) In the Wacker Street lobby, you'll find a very large Alexander Calder mobile entitled Universe. A "must do" while in Chicago is a trip to the 103rd floor observation deck called Skydeck, and step out onto the glass-enclosed "ledge" if you dare. Before the trip up the high-speed elevator, you'll view a brief film on the construction of the building. The 360-degree views from the top are spectacular, but sunset viewing is very popular so plan accordingly.

**Chicago Board of Trade - 141 West Jackson Boulevard (1930)**

**Holabird & Root, architects**

Walk back east on Jackson to LaSalle Street. Along this stretch you'll pass Giordano's, home to deep dish pizza and arguably the original creator of stuffed-pizza. The Chicago Board of Trade sits majestically at the head of LaSalle Street, the heart of Chicago's financial district. The 45-story, 609-foot Chicago Board of Trade is Chicago's premier art deco building and another National Historic Place, and home to the largest financial and agricultural futures and options trading exchange in the world. Step inside to view the building's art deco lobby. One last fun fact. The 31-foot statue which tops the Chicago Board of Trade building is Ceres, the Roman goddess of grains. This iconic perch is also a favorite haunt of Batman in several recent movies, as he looks down on the canyon of

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skyscrapers which forms south LaSalle Street. This street includes numerous banks, financial institutions and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (visit the free Federal Money Museum, which is open on week days and snap a selfie with a \$1 million dollar briefcase of real bills. You can take home a bag of genuine shredded currency as a free souvenir.)

Opposite the Board of Trade, on the southwest corner of the Continental Bank Building, is a plaque commemorating the spot where the USA standard time system was adopted in 1883.

**The Monadnock - 53 West Jackson Boulevard (1891)**  
**Burnham & Root, architects**

Continue walking east on Jackson Boulevard two blocks to Dearborn street. The Monadnock is a 16-story, 200-foot tall structure made entirely of dark brown brick, and is named after a mountain in New England. To support the structure, the load bearing walls are six-feet thick at its base. Walk inside to see how the architects brought the feel of the street to the interior. Also, there is another chance to enjoy Intelligentsia Coffee.

**Printer's Row District**

To the south of the Monadnock, is the area known as Printer's Row. This was the heart of the Midwest publishing and printing industry in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and these restored and renovated buildings are now luxury condos, apartments and boutique hotels. Many buildings proudly display their historic printing lineage with original presses in their lobbies, and names like The Mergenthaler Linotype Building and the Duplicator Building. There are many historic buildings, including The Manhattan, which when it was built in 1890 was the first 16-story building in the world. It lost this title after six months to a neighboring building (the Old Colony), which soon was bested by another building (The Monadnock) and then The Fisher Building! For several years this four block area was home to all the world's tallest buildings and really was the birthplace of the modern American skyscraper. The 20<sup>th</sup> Worldcon was hosted at the nearby Congress Hotel in 1962.

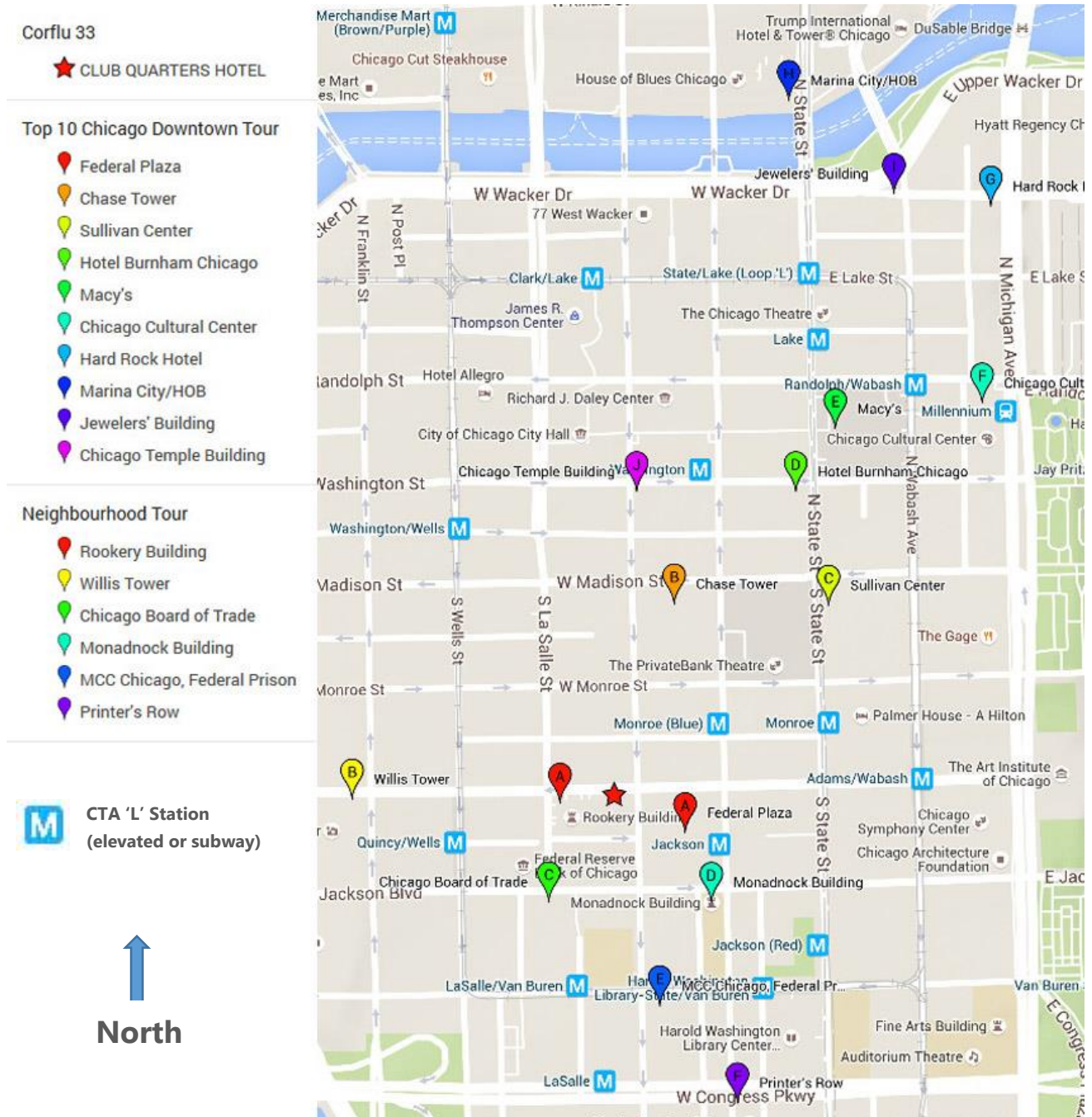
**Metropolitan Correctional Facility - 71 W. Van Buren Street (1975)**

The tour ends nearby, directly behind the Monadnock, and the 28-story downtown home of the Federal Prison. High profile inmates and other prisoners get to use the rooftop exercise yard during the day, and jealously hear the sounds and see the sights of downtown life during their incarceration. A spectacular daring overnight escape in 2012, involving 17-stories worth of knotted-together bed sheets, disguises and fake window bars, allowed two prisoners a brief taste of freedom. For their efforts they were sent to the highly-secure Colorado Supermax.

To get back to the Corflu hotel, walk north along Dearborn Street and cut across the Federal Center Plaza to Adams and Clark Street.

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# Downtown Chicago Tours Map



Scale: 12 city blocks to a mile downtown.

The area enclosed by the elevated 'L' tracks is ¼ mile wide, ¼ mile high.  
(Wells to Wabash Streets, Van Buren – Lake Street.)

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# How Can I Join In?

If you're reading this, it's possible that you're already a member of Chiflu. But just in case you are reading over someone's shoulder in a train or at the bus stop, you too can join in the Corflu festivities. An attending membership gives you the right to attend the convention, stay in the hotel at the reduced rate, receive all the con publications, and even stay up late into the night debating things of interest with like-minded folk. A supporting membership allows you to do all these things, but only at a distance, including bidding in the auction.

**Attending** \$100 (US) or £65 (UK)

**Supporting** \$25 (US), £15 (UK)

Attending membership, inclusive of Sunday lunch banquet, increased to \$100 after January 11<sup>th</sup> 2016. If you purchase a supporting membership, and decide to attend the con in person, the cost of converting will be the differential between what you paid to support and the current attending membership rate in effect at the time this change is made.

**Day Memberships** - \$30 for Saturday only

Lately there has been a tradition, of sorts, allowing potential attendees who might not otherwise have attended to take advantage of a special one day Saturday membership to partake in the fun - well Saturday's fun and frolics anyway, including publications. If you have friends attending the Nebula Awards celebration in Chicago the same weekend, this might be the way to get them to visit Corflu. But it won't provide access to any other weekend activities.

Checks should be made payable to Nigel Rowe and sent to the address at the back of this Progress Report.

Memberships can also be paid via PayPal (please label payments as gifts) using this email address: [nigel84@mwpssoft.com](mailto:nigel84@mwpssoft.com)

## **UK Agent**

Corflu c/o Rob Jackson,  
Chinthay, Nightingale Lane, Hambrook, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 8UH. UK.

UK memberships in Sterling can also be paid via PayPal to [jacksonshambrook@uwclub.net](mailto:jacksonshambrook@uwclub.net)

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# Arriving in Chicago and Getting Around

## Getting to the Hotel

The Club Quarters Central Loop Hotel, home base for Corflu the Chiflu, is located in the heart of downtown Chicago, and is within easy walking distance of all the CTA 'L' lines. To reach the Hotel, exit at the following CTA stations:

**Blue Line:** Jackson. Take Adams street exit and walk one block west on Adams.

**Orange, Purple, Brown or Pink Lines:** Quincy Station, exit and walk two blocks east on Adams.

**Red Line:** Monroe Street Station. Take the Adams Street exit and walk two blocks west on Adams.

**Green Line (northbound):** Transfer at the Roosevelt station to the Orange line (same platform) or downstairs to the Red line. Exit Red line as above.

**Green Line (eastbound):** Exit at Adams/Wabash, walk three blocks west on Adams.

## Public Transit Options

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) provides public transport services (buses and trains) around the Chicago metro area. This is supplemented by Metra commuter trains and Pace buses servicing the outer suburbs, and connecting up to the CTA. In downtown Chicago there are four primary Metra Stations, servicing all three compass points - nothing goes east, as that's Lake Michigan. Although water taxis, kayaks and tourist boats cover that route if needed.

The CTA train service is called the 'L' or 'El' (short for elevated), and is mostly above ground, except for the downtown Chicago subway lines, and some stops en-route to the airport. Its signature service is the elevated section which runs around the downtown 'loop' and provides a breathtaking look at architecture, city parks, the Chicago River and Lake Michigan. All 'L' lines traverse the Chicago Downtown area, with the exceptions of the Purple line (outside rush hours), and the Skokie Yellow line.

The CTA provides 24 hour service on major routes, although after 1am, trains and buses aren't as frequent. Full details and route maps available: [www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com)

Downtown Transit Sightseeing Guide/map with popular destinations  
<http://www.transitchicago.com/asset.aspx?AssetId=181>

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## Paying your CTA fare

There are three easy options once you get to any CTA station: single-ride Ventra tickets or 1 day passes, Ventra stored value cards, and multiple day passes.

- Tickets must be purchased in advance using either cash, or credit/debit cards at a CTA station kiosk, or other approved vendors. Only buses offer an exact change pay-as-you-go service.
- Ventra Tickets are good on all CTA services—current options include a Single-Ride CTA Ticket (includes 2 transfers to bus and/or another train ride within two hours) or a 1-Day CTA Ticket pass (good for unlimited rides for one person for 24 hours).
- You can buy a stored-value Ventra Card with money loaded to cover fares for up to seven people, or any other multiple-day pass you like. Additional funds for future travel can be pre-loaded either online or at the station kiosks. There is a \$5 fee applied at time of purchase, this fee is converted to transit value, if the card is registered online within 90 days at [www.ventrachicago.com](http://www.ventrachicago.com)
- If you have a contactless bankcard (with the wave symbol) or Apple/Android Pay and don't need a transfer, you can go straight to the gates and touch your card there. A \$2.25 fare will be charged for each ride you do this way.
- Reduced fares are available for children/seniors but conditions apply, and should be reviewed before purchasing, as these might not be available to visitors.

### 'L' train fare

Regular pre-paid Ventra fare is \$2.25, an additional 25 cents transfer is charged for up to 2 additional rides within two hours. CTA trains from O'Hare cost \$5, one-way including transfers.

Note many CTA 'L' train stations allow for easy switching between train lines, without incurring a transfer cost.

CTA Single-Ride Ventra Ticket is \$3, this includes a 25 cent transfer and a ticket fee. At Chicago O'Hare the single-ride ticket is \$5 including transfer and fee.

### Bus fare

Regular pre-paid Ventra fare is \$2, but exact change cash fare of \$2.25 can be paid when boarding. No transfer option is available for cash fares, and no change is provided.

### Multi-Day Passes (valid for one person only)

CTA 1-Day Ventra Pass = \$10; 3-Day Pass = \$20; 7-Day Pass = \$28.

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## Arriving by Air

Chicago is lucky enough to have two primary airports. Chicago O'Hare is the primary one with service provided by all major domestic and International airlines. Midway is closer to the city, but is the main port of call for Southwest and some smaller carriers. Both airports are directly connected to public transit via the CTA. O'Hare is about 45 minutes distant from downtown, and Midway is 30 minutes.

Upon arrival at either airport, make your way to the CTA station inside the airport by following the signs. These are end-of-the line stops, so trains only go to downtown. Aside from the early morning hours (roughly 1am to 5am) the CTA runs frequent airport train service.

See public transit options above for tips on using CTA. There is a flat \$5 CTA charge for all passengers starting their journey at Chicago O'Hare. However a return trip to O'Hare will be charged at the normal \$2.25 rate.

At O'Hare, service is provided by the Blue Line, and at Midway it's the Orange Line. To reach the Club Quarters Central Loop Hotel, take the O'Hare Blue Line to the Downtown Jackson station and exit via the Adams Street exit. Upon exiting the station walk to Adams Street and west two blocks to the hotel.

From Midway, take the Orange line to the downtown Quincy stop, exit the station and walk half a block north to Adams Street. Then walk east two short blocks.

## Arriving by Train or Long-Distance Bus

All long-distance Amtrak trains and Mega Buses terminate at Union Station. From there you can take a taxi, or a 10 minute walk across the Chicago River to the hotel. It is a pleasant walk, with no major obstacles or inclines to navigate. Buses are also available, but in all honesty it's quicker to hail a cab or walk. The Mega Bus all arrive at street level, across from Union Station. Other bus companies should be consulted directly about arrival options. The Greyhound station is another 10 minutes walk.

Most regional and suburban Metra commuter trains terminate at either Union Station or Ogilvie Transportation Center. However, Metra trains from Indiana and southern Chicago suburbs and University of Chicago terminate at either the Van Buren Street Metra Station, the Millennium Station (at Randolph/Michigan Streets), or the LaSalle Street Station.

Visit [www.metrarail.com](http://www.metrarail.com) for ticketing, station and schedule information.

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## Arriving by Car

The hotel is located at West Adams Street, Chicago, IL 60605. There is no hotel parking, although valet service is available. Some street parking is available nearby, but this is pay-and-display for short periods only. It is recommended to drop off bags at the hotel, then locate a convenient parking garage or street park in the vicinity. Make a careful note of garage hours of operation, as some do not offer access after midnight.

Arrangements are still being made to secure discounted parking through the weekend, but in order to do this, please advise asap if you require overnight parking, and when you will be arriving/departing.

## Eight Other Must-Do Things in Chicago

**8. Visit Lake Michigan.** Walk east on any downtown street and eventually you'll get wet. Most of the downtown stretches of the Lake have sandy, pleasant beaches and access right up-to-the water's edge. Buckingham Fountain at East Congress and Lake Shore drive is a perennial favourite walking spot with an impressive fountain, and a great view of the city skyline ("Michigan Avenue Wall".) At one end of the downtown stretch there's museum campus, and at the other, Navy Pier (#1 Chicago tourist destination).

<http://www.travelchannel.com/destinations/us/il/chicago/articles/what-to-do-on-lake-shore-drive>

**7. Visit Union Station.** This is the primary port of entry for long-distance rail travelers to Chicago. Currently being renovated to its former glory, this still offers a taste of a bygone era. For the Sean Connery/Kevin Costner fans, you can re-create the epic gun battle, saving the baby in the pushchair scene from "The Untouchables." The staircase is located at the southern end of the great concourse. <http://blog.amtrak.com/2013/06/untouchables-stair-scene/>

**6. Ride the elevated 'L' loop train.** Get on at any of the elevated stations downtown, and choose when to get off. You can't ride around and around, unfortunately as all trains go round the entire loop or part of the loop before exiting. The Brown line offers the complete ride, just remember to get off at The Merchandise Mart stop, cross over to the platform going in the other direction, and take the reverse route back to where you started. Best trip for \$2.25. Avoid rush hour and sit in the front car for the full effect. <http://www.transitchicago.com/maps/>

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**5. Visit Millennium Park.** Completed in 2004, only 4 years too late for the actual millennium, this magnificent half-billion dollar 25 acre park sits on top of railroad tracks and many floors of car park deep below. Highlights include the Pritzker Pavilion, CloudGate (aka The "Bean"), the video water wall, BP Bridge, and the Lurie Garden. [www.millenniumpark.org](http://www.millenniumpark.org)

**4. Visit Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs.** Take a Red line north to Addison station (about 35 minutes). Baseball. During Corflu the Cubs are playing at home: vs San Diego Padres 5/9-5/11; and vs Pittsburgh Pirates 5/13-5/15. It's recommended to get tickets in advance and check out the games schedule: [www.chicago.cubs.mlb.com](http://www.chicago.cubs.mlb.com) Alas, the Chicago White Sox are not playing at home during Corflu, but US cellular Field can be visited by taking the Red line south to Sox-35<sup>th</sup> Station (about 15 minutes.) [www.whitesox.com](http://www.whitesox.com)

**3. Visit Buddy Guys for the latest in the continuing Chicago Blues legacy.** The man himself is frequently in attendance during the evenings, and every-now and then joins other artists on stage. Usually free entrance during the afternoon and early evening, but paid tickets are required for evening concerts. Full bar and meal service available. [www.buddyguy.com](http://www.buddyguy.com)

**2. Eat some deep-dish pizza pie.** Giordano's is a frequently touted best deep-dish experience, but there's also Lou Malnati's, Pizzeria Uno, Pizano's, and the list goes on. All the top contenders have downtown locations, but for a comprehensive guide and rankings visit: <http://www.seriousseats.com/2014/06/the-best-deep-dish-pizza-in-chicago.html>

**1. Visit the Art Institute at 111 S. Michigan Avenue.** Exit the Club Quarters hotel and walk four blocks east on Adams. Where else can you see the best collection of Impressionist paintings? More famous works of art and artists than you can ever hope to roll up inside an umbrella case over several visits. [www.artic.edu](http://www.artic.edu) and <http://blog.efexploreamerica.com/2014/07/5-famous-paintings-at-the-art-institute-of-chicago/>

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## Whither Corflu 34?

*So far only one bid intention has been declared, but others will be accepted right up until the start of the bid presentations during the Corflu 33 banquet. If you are thinking about bidding please let us know so we can provide equal advance billing. And now over to the LA Corflu 34 bid team...*

“Los Angeles is bidding for Corflu 34 to be held over the last weekend of April in 2017. The concom will consist of Marty Cantor (Chair and Publications), Elayne Pelz (Treasurer, Hotel Liaison, and Memberships), Karl Lembke (Con Suite), Milt Stevens (Programming), and Marc Schirmeister (Staff Artist). Other fans will be added as needed.

Marty Cantor and Elayne Pelz were on the concom for Corflu 9 and Marty has attended several Corflus as have Milt Stevens. Milt was also co-chair of the 1984 Worldcon in Los Angeles. Both Marty and Milt have produced genzines in the past and Marty currently is OE of the monthly LASFAPA, OC of the weekly APA-L, and contributes to both APAs. (In his copious spare time he pubs the monthly, 10 page, unofficial, newsletter of the LASFS, De Profundis.)

Karl Lembke runs con suites, green rooms, and staff lounges for several Southern California cons and his gourmet cooking and brewing skills often add gustatory enjoyment to these places. He also contributes to both APA-L and LASFAPA.

Marc Schirmeister is a fanartist of note, his art having graced the covers and interiors of many a fanzine.

WE HAVE A HOTEL! The Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills (which is at the western end of the San Fernando Valley part of Los Angeles) will be available to us on the weekend we have picked. The hotel is right across the street from the Promenade Mall (which is attached to the Topanga Plaza Mall), both of which have oodles of restaurants. Nearby are a Fry's Electronics and a Barnes & Nobel book store.”

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# FAAn Awards 2016

Claire Brialey

'And the universe ... will explode later for your pleasure.'

The Fan Activity Achievement (FAAn) awards are presented annually to honour the best in fan writing, drawing, publishing and posting. They are voted on by fanzine fans around the world and the results are usually announced at Corflu. The awards for fanzine activity in 2015 will be presented at Corflu the Chiflu at the banquet on Sunday 15th May 2016.

As an old fan of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, I've often found it helpful to turn to the words of Douglas Adams to summarize a situation, or simply to find a better way to phrase an excuse. But now is one of those rare occasions when I need you not to ask yourself WWDD.

'I love deadlines,' he wrote in The Salmon of Doubt. 'I love the whooshing noise they make as they go by.' I'm not such a fan of deadlines, myself, finding them to be rather tricky beasts that lie in wait in the distance and then pounce before you know it. Voting for the 2015 Awards closed on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, but eligible fanzines can be viewed and read online at the link below.

We can talk about all this at Corflu itself, though. And being Corflu, we can do that anywhere, but there should be an actual programme item to do it in too. So if you do think there's a different way to make the FAAn awards work, or that there's no point to them, or that there's a way you would be motivated to vote which no one's tried yet but might reasonably consider – come along to that item, and help make it better. Those of you who won't be at the actual con are welcome to email me beforehand with your thoughts on this, and we can feed them in.

After that: well, what happens next year might depend on what happens now. Attend the Corflu banquet, be there or be... somewhere else, albeit possibly watching a live stream of the ceremony. You might be surprised. You might be outraged. You might be unable to make out my impenetrable British accent, especially over the interwebs. You might also moan about it afterwards. But if you voted beforehand, maybe you won't need to.

I am the administrator for this year's awards. Questions can be sent to me (Claire) via:

[faansfor2015@gmail.com](mailto:faansfor2015@gmail.com)

Information about the history of the FAAn awards, including previous winners, can be found here:

<http://www.corflu.org/history/faan.html>

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## Get your t-Shirts here!



T-Shirt orders are now being taken for collection at the con, or at cost + postage if sent out. After reviewing all the various options, I decided to go with a reliable service that has decent pricing, quality and good turn-around. However they don't offer a "let your friends order what you just ordered" option. So to get around that, please let me know your preferred sizing when you order and I'll place a bulk order for pick-up at the con.

See the photo for the design. These are short-sleeve shirts, in one fabric color (Ash Gray). There is nothing printed on the back.

The cost per shirt is \$20 delivered at the convention. There is an additional \$3 charge per shirt for XXL and XXXL sizes.

You are responsible for ordering the correct shirt size

Sizes are as follows:

### **Men**

Medium (20/29"), large (22/30"),  
XLarge (24/31"), XXL (26/32"), XXXL (28/33")

### **Women**

Small 4-6 (16.5/25"), medium 8-10 (17.5/26"),  
large 12-14 (19/27"), XLarge 16-18 (20.5/28")  
XXL 20-22 (22/28.5"), XXXL 24-26 (23.75/29.75")

Measurements are all width/height

- Width measurements are underarm to underarm
- Height is shoulder collar to bottom of shirt

Send all orders with quantity and size to [nigel84@mwpsoft.com](mailto:nigel84@mwpsoft.com) by 5/3/16.

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# Programming, Virtual Con Suite, Banquet...

Corflu 33 will feature the usual single-stream program, starting with the opening ceremony on Friday evening at 6pm. Saturday morning activities begin at 10:30 and continue through the late afternoon. Saturday evening fun and frolics after dinner, and the traditional brunch banquet on Sunday morning. There will also be a dead-dog party. Other activities include a Fan Fund auction, virtual con-suite, possible baseball outing on Friday afternoon, self-guided tours of Chicago downtown, and a pre-con offsite party on Thursday evening for the early birds.

## **Banquet**

The traditional rubber-chicken, Pizza-Hut cardboard, banquet brunch is scheduled for Sunday morning at 11am. If you have any specific dietary requirements, including "I only eat Lobster after midday", or "please provide real silver spoons", or I'm a vegetarian, please make sure there's something other than lettuce and a potato to eat, please advise as soon as possible, so you can be accommodated. However if your request is to ensure that the celery stick in your Bloody Mary is organic and freshly flown in from California, then ... let us know that as well!

## **Baseball Outing**

The Chicago Cubs are playing at home over the con weekend, and there is the possibility of a group outing to Wrigley Field to see the Cubs play the Pittsburgh Pirates. The game on Friday 5/13 starts at 1:20pm, allowing for enough time to return to the hotel for the opening ceremony at 6pm. If you would like to be a part of this activity, please send an indication of interest as soon as possible to [nigel84@mwpssoft.com](mailto:nigel84@mwpssoft.com), to allow for tickets to be purchased in advance. The Saturday afternoon game on 5/14 is already showing signs of limited availability.

The Cubs are playing very hot this season, so there is the possibility that tickets might not be available. Tickets are priced from \$22 - \$35 plus fees, will be grouped together. At this price, the seats are located at the top of the stadium, affording a great view of the historic confines of Wrigley Field. If you desire tickets at a different price or if your preference is for better seats, or for a different game day, book directly through the Cubs website: <http://chicago.cubs.mlb.com>

## **Virtual Con Suite**

Rob Jackson assures me that this will be happening. There have been test runs, and the iPad is up to the challenge of simultaneously simulcasting Corflu 24/7. And if you have an Oculus Rift virtual reality headset... well, congratulations, you have been appointed Digital Engagement chief of Corflu 34. Connection details will be available at [www.corflu.org](http://www.corflu.org)

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# The Corflu Auction

Rob Jackson

Every year Corflu holds an auction, at which, not unnaturally, fanzines take star billing. You may be able to buy artwork, books, T-shirts, and other fannish memorabilia though, so keep your eyes open. Come and have a look in advance through the fine material that is almost always given by generous donors who wish to find a loving new home for their belongings as well as support Corflu and associated fine fannish causes such as various fan funds, particularly the Corflu Fifty as well as the longer-established funds such as TAFF, DUFF and GUFF.

So if you have Good Stuff that you think deserves a better fate than to be lost to posterity, but wish to pass on as you are downsizing or decluttering or whatever, please get in touch.

Physical collection details will be posted later, but please send details of what you might have for auction (descriptions and so on) to this email address: [nigel84@mwpssoft.com](mailto:nigel84@mwpssoft.com)

We hope to be able to earmark specific donations for specific funds if that is what you as the donor want. Please note that to bid in the auction either in person or by virtual participation, you must hold either an attending or supporting membership in Corflu 33, or if you have donated items to the 2016 auction.

Note: Some classic things have already been donated for the auction, including items from Art Widner's collection.

## Nebula Awards Weekend

During the weekend of May 13th, 2016, the SFWA Nebula Awards ceremony is also being hosted in Chicago. The festivities start on May 12th, at the Palmer House Hilton. This hotel is just a few short blocks from the Club House Quarters and Corflu.

Tickets for the Saturday evening Awards ceremony are available at a reduced price, for those not attending the entire weekend. On the Friday night there is a free to the public author signing session and books for sale. Corflu Chiflu members have been invited to join the casual morning walks exploring the Loop starting around 9am each day.

Learn more at: <http://www.sfw.org/nebula-awards/nebula-weekend/>

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## Alternative Hotel News

By now, hopefully, you have booked your hotel room, confirmed your reservation and are just counting down the days. However, the hotel reservation system with our preferred rates expired on April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you still require accommodation, there are two options:

1. Let me know, and I'll try and weasel another few rooms from the hotel at our preferred discount rates. While no guarantees are being offered, the hotel has said they will do their best to accommodate us. Two room types are available: Club \$167 and Standard \$182, plus taxes. All rooms come equipped with a Queen sized bed. Larger rooms are also available. There is an \$18 per day per person fee for anyone else sharing the room. But be quick...
2. About 10 minutes' walk from the hotel, is the Hostel International Chicago (YHA) that has individual rooms available, along with the usual shared rooms. Rates vary from \$30+ depending on preference. Visit [www.hichicago.org](http://www.hichicago.org) for more details and to make bookings.

There is no preferred rate for Corflu attendees, you are on your own! However it is a very nice hostel, and our very own Mrs Rowe is a resident volunteer concierge on Saturdays, and is only too happy to advise you on the many things Chicago has to tempt you with. However her first question will be to work out why you aren't actually at Corflu attending the programming...

## Corflu 33 Financial Statement (as of 4/25/16)

### **Income:**

Attending Memberships: \$3,718.26 + owed on currency conversion (\$50.27)

Supporting Memberships: \$215.88

Pass-along Funds from Tynecon III: \$1,464.69

Total Income: \$5,398.83 (+\$50.27)

### **Expenses:**

Miscellaneous: \$4.54

t-Shirts: \$20

Postage: \$37.50

Printing: \$162.50

Total Expenses: \$224.54

Balance: \$5,174.28 (as of 4/25/16 – and \$50.27 owed)

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# Chiflu Membership List

List current as of April 25, 2016

(S) Denotes supporting member

41	Alan	Rosenthal	15	John	Harvey
52	Andy	Hooper	12	John	Nielsen Hall (S)
13	Audrey	Nielsen Hall (S)	36	John	Berry
38	Bill	Wright (S)	40	Ken	Forman
42	Bill	Burns	3	Mark	Plummer
29	Bruce	Newrock	46	Marty	Cantor (S)
53	Carrie	Root	43	Mary	Burns
55	Catherine	Crockett	28	Mary Ellen	Moore
10	Christina	Lake	48	Michael	Dobson
4	Claire	Brialey	5	Mike	Meara
54	Colin	Hinz	33	Milt	Stevens
34	Darrah	Chavey (S)	27	Murray	Moore
11	Doug	Bell	57	Neil	Rest
7	Elaine	Stiles	24	Nic	Farey
16	Eve	Harvey	23	Nigel	Rowe
30	Flo	Newrock	9	Pat	Charnock (S)
39	Frank	Lunney	6	Pat	Meara
21	Gary	Mattingly	26	Pat	Virzi
56	Gary	Hunnewell	2	Rich	Coad
18	Geri	Sullivan	14	Rob	Jackson
35	Grant	Canfield	22	Robert	Lichtman (S)
51	Hope	Leibowitz	44	Ron	Salomon
47	Ian	Sorensen	45	Sandra	Bond
37	Jack	Calvert (S)	50	Scott	Custis
32	Janet	Carrington	19	Spike	
49	Jeanne	Gomoll	8	Steve	Stiles
25	Jen	Allee	1	Ted	White
17	Jim	Mowatt (S)	20	Tom	Becker
31	Jim	Caughran			

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*This has been Progress Report Two for Chiflu - Corflu 33. Mostly written during April 2016 and edited by Nigel Rowe, with substantial help from Dan Steffan, Eva Rowe and Claire Brialey. Grant Canfield photos by Grant. Corflu 33 logo designed and styled by Steve Stiles. For the latest news visit [www.corflu.org](http://www.corflu.org)*

*Ever-so slightly updated for typos 5/1/16*

*Memberships and other questions can be sent to:*

*Corflu 33*

*c/- Nigel Rowe*

*431 S. Dearborn #906*

*Chicago, IL 60605*

*Or by email: [nigel84@mwpssoft.com](mailto:nigel84@mwpssoft.com)*

*There will be fun, ghod-dammit! Or there will be spilled ink...*

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