

DC In
2017



THE
Drink Tank
393

THE DRINK TANK

December
2014

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"I maintain that the Einstein statue is far more beloved."



CHAPTER 1

DC IN 2017!

I love Washington DC! When I got asked to help out with the bid, I couldn't have thought of a better idea! DC's a great city, I briefly lived there while working at the Smithsonian, and it's a town with great Fannish roots!

So, get on-board! Here are some things we love about Washington!

Editors

Chris

James

Vanessa

Make sure to check out <http://dc17.org/> for more info, and for the love of Jeff, VOTE at WorldCon!

Washington District of Columbia





SECTION 1

DC IN 2017

by Warren Buff



*2013 Ligula
nostra*

One of the things I keep hearing when I talk to folks about bidding for a DC Worldcon is that Discon II was their first Worldcon. Hopefully, Chris has a bit more in this issue about Discon II from the folks who were there. It was the sort of Worldcon that brought a large number of folks together who would be part of the core Worldcon community for decades to come. I want to do something like that.

I want us to run a Worldcon that, thirty years from now, you'll run into folks all over fandom who remember it fondly as their first. We've got a great combination of city, committee, and facility to make that happen.

The things that made DC a great location in 1974 are still true today. It's an anchor of the Northeast Corridor, which has one of the densest concentrations of SF fans and professionals anywhere in the world. It's a destination city, that is very convenient to get to by air, train or highway and that has plenty to see before and after the convention, and resources we can tap into for programming you won't be able to duplicate anywhere else. But most of all, it's a city with a vibrant local fandom, featuring over a dozen groups meeting around fannish interests in the District proper, and many, many more within the commuter range.

On the city front, DC is served by three major airports (BWI, Dulles, and National), is a hub on the Amtrak network (at Union Station, which is just a few stops away from our site on the Red Line), and is well-positioned along the Interstate, Greyhound, and discount bus networks. Getting there won't be an ordeal, even if you're coming from far away. Once you're there, you'll find plenty to do outside of the convention (and our room block extends well beyond the convention dates to accommodate tourist time).

Washington is home to the United States federal government and its grand architectural stylings, along with dozens of monuments and memorials, but the real attractions are the museums. While the seventeen Smithsonian Museums clearly lead the way (especially the crown jewel of the Air & Space Museum), you can also find several historic homes which have been converted to museums in the area (such as Mount Vernon and Arlington House), and many additional museums like the Crime Museum, the Art Museum of the Americas, the National Building Museum, and the International Spy Museum. There are also plans to open a Museum of Science Fiction, hopefully beginning in 2017. Our site is also just blocks away from the National Zoo and up the hill from Rock Creek Park (and when else will you be able to go to a Worldcon that close to a National Park?).

Our committee blends a wide range of fannish interests across several generations, allowing us to bring a mix of experiences and energy to the project of running a Worldcon. From fresh faces to five past Worldcon chairs and a dozen DHs, our range of experience will help us bring a strong combination of institutional memory and new ideas into a Worldcon committee. We'd

*Getting there won't
be an ordeal, even
if you're coming
from far away.*

**WARREN
BUFF**

like to carry the grand conversation of Worldcon forward, and this committee is prepared to do it.

And the Marriott Wardman Park, which also hosted Discon II, has been renovated into one of the best spaces that's ever held a Worldcon. With 95K sqft of carpeted and accessible exhibit space, 100K sqft of meeting space, 1100 hotel rooms, and an abundance of suites, it has all of our basic needs covered. But it's also the sort of big tent we need to host a variety of programming and events while simultaneously providing dozens of quiet seating areas for your spontaneous conversations and a sprawling bar positioned between the main elevator bank and the lobby. It's got everything you need for both the grandeur and the intimacy that make Worldcon so special. The hotel is across the street from the Woodley Park station on Metro's Red Line as well as two dozen restaurants of varied cuisines and price points and a number of neighborhood shops to help you feel at home. You'll have everything you need within a couple of blocks, but you'll also have access to all the city has to offer.

We're looking to host a Worldcon for the ages, and we'd like for you to be a part of it. We'd love to have your vote and your support to help make that happen. We invite you to come explore DC.

Marriott Wardman Park, which also hosted Discon II, has been renovated into one of the best spaces that's ever held a Worldcon.

DC IN 2017

SECTION 2

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?



by

*Jared
Dashoff*

It is indeed a beautiful day in the neighborhood. It almost always is. I should admit that technically Woodley Park isn't my neighborhood. By accepted definitions and proximity to Metro stations, I live in Cleveland Park, the neighborhood just north of Woodley Park. However, living at the south end of Cleveland Park gives me, the right to smush the two areas and say I live in Wood-land Park. All DC-ites have this authority, I swear.

So, welcome to the neighborhood. I promise I'll bring a pie to Worldcon.

What makes Woodley Park so great? It's urban and residential. It's bustling and quiet. It's new and old. It's uptown and downtown. It's just the perfect mix for a really great neighborhood.

Want a ton of choices for dinner close by but a place to duck the traffic and walk off that meal? Check. There's somewhere on the order of 25 restaurants within a two block radius of the Marriott Wardman Park and more up by my apartment and to the south across the William Howard Taft Bridge towards Dupont Circle. Yet, there are beautiful quiet streets, Rock Creek Park's walking trails, and bridges with scenic views all available to escape the hubbub.

Want a main thoroughfare for easy travel and yet tree lined streets? Check. Connecticut Avenue basically splits Woodley Park in two, running north-south from the White House all the way out to the suburbs and connecting to I-495 (the Washington Beltway). At the same time, both Connecticut Avenue and its sidestreets are lined with trees, including Woodley Road on which the Warman Park Hotel sits. Additionally, the grounds of the Wardman Park have beautifully maintained gardens and a large lawn.

Want a Metro station right at hand but plenty of room and racks for bicycles and wide sidewalks for walking? Check. The Woodley Park-National Zoo/Adams Morgan Metro station is all but literally right outside the door of the Wardman Park. The elevator is about 100 feet away from one door and the escalator is 150 feet away from another. The sidewalks are wide and walkable, with bike racks and a Capital BikeShare nearby as well.

Want historic sites and homes but modern amenities? Check. Woodley Park features some of the oldest homes in the District, many with interesting stone work and facades. Inside these homes, you will find all the shining wonder of the 21st century.

. On top of all of this, there is the National Zoo, replete with pandas, otters, elephants, mischievous red pandas, and even a petting zoo. The National Cathedral is also close by, featuring among many others, a grotesque of Darth Vader himself.

*Duis autem vel eum
iriure dolor in
hendrerit in vulpu-
tate velit esse*

WOODLEY PARK

JARED DASHOFF

*Woodley Park
Washington DC*



*Woodley
Park*

Then, there is, of course, the Wardman Park. The area around the hotel has dozens of restaurants featuring a multitude of cuisines, price points, and dining times. On a personal note, this includes one of my FAVORITE spots for coffee and a snack: a pretty sweet, diner, called Open City. There are shops and a selection of nearby markets. There is burgeoning and bustling Adams Morgan with some great bars, coffee shops and restaurants all its own. There are the embassies, bringing a different culture to you building by building. There is Rock Creek Park and its running, walking and biking trails, oh, and the creek. There is just about anything you could want or need.

So, I ask again, won't you be my neighbor?



WOODLEY PARK

*Jared
Dashoff*



My favorites in the greater Woodley Park area:

Diner – Open City (2331 Calvert St NW, Washington, DC 20008; (202) 332-2331; www.opencitydc.com)

Coffee Shop – Tryst (2459 18th St NW, Washington, DC 20009; (202) 232-5500; www.trystdc.com)

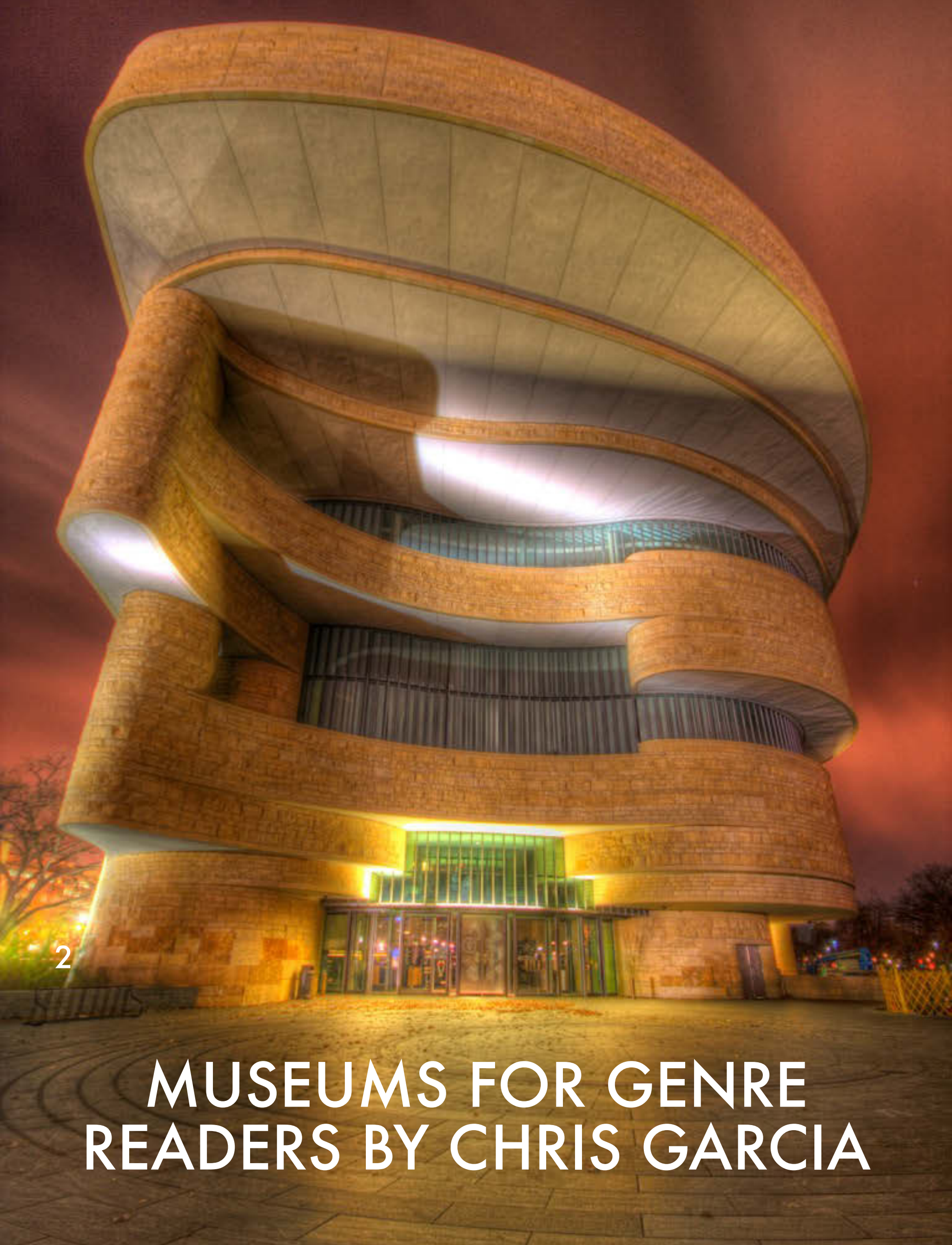
Restaurant – Italian Pizza Kitchen (2608 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008; (202) 939-2979; www.theitalianpizzakitchen.net)



Retreat – Rock Creek Park (the entrance is at Calvert Street and 24th Street, right behind the Marriott Wardman Park)

Bar – Jack Rose Dining Saloon (2007 18th St NW, Washington, DC 20009; (202) 588-7388; <http://jackrosediningsaloon.com/>)

Other things – Just ask, I am always available to give neighborly advice.



2

MUSEUMS FOR GENRE READERS BY CHRIS GARCIA

*The National
Archives is always
worth a visit,
especially if you get
a chance to catch
one of their
screenings.*

Washington is, more than any other city in the US, a museum city. What! I hear you scream. New York is the best Museum City in the US. Wrong. No other city in these United of the States has the depth, breadth, and AWSUM of The District. So much so that you can find a museum for every kind of genre reader.

How's that? I hear you asking.

Here, let me show you examples.

So, let's say you're really into Historical Military Fiction. You've got a few choice spots to consider. First, there's the wonderful National Museum of American Jewish Military History. They do incredible rotating exhibits, and while they're not on the Mall, the neighborhood they're tucked into is lovely, with lots of great food options. The wonderful African-American Civil War Museum is more than worth a visit. Along with Kansas City's World War I museum (and you are going to the KC WorldCon, right?), it's the finest museum I've ever seen dedicated to a single military conflict. The National Guard Memorial Museum is kinda small, but the section on the Citizen Soldier during World War II is exceptional! Plus, it's near Union Station and there's no place better to grab a quick between-museums lunch in DC.

If you're a Historical Sea-Faring Fiction fan, then you must make your way to the National Museum of the United States Navy. It's out at the Naval Yard, in an OLD building, I believe the old Gunnery building, and it's got a bunch of wonderful exhibits. Though I haven't been there since the exhibit of Submarines opened, our museum sent a deep-sea explorer their way! The replica of the Constitution's gun deck is also worth the visit. The place was a fave when I lived in DC, we must have gone three or four times during that summer.

Hey, you like reading Spy Thrillers? Basically, the perfect museum for you is The International Spy Museum. The story here is that you are given a cover identity and have to move through the museum as if you're a spy. It's half-museum, half-RPG, but the collection is really second to none. The School for Spies section is super interesting from a concept point of view. Vanessa went during a Gail Carriger signing after World Fantasy.



I've never actually been, though I have frequented their website, and consulted on a couple of exhibits with 'em.

I'm a big fan of Crime Fiction (especially Hard Case Crime!) and there's a museum for us, too! It's the National Museum of Crime and Punishment. It's another museum I've admired from afar, having opened after my last visit to the District, but it's impressive website is worth a visit all on its own. The world of Crime is covered, with a focus on crime in Pop Culture. It's also where the last 5 seasons of America's Most Wanted were taped. Worth it for Crime fans!

But Chris, I hear you cry, what about those of us who love Dianetics? Well, there's the L. Ron Hubbard House, where the man himself (and, presumably his Operating Thetans...) lived from 1955 to 1959, and where the Church of Scientology was incorporated. It's open by appointment only, though.

What about Hard Science? Well, I would start with The Marian Koshland Science Museum of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences which is a museum with science so hard, it's peer-reviewed. It's really a spectacular concept for museum, and while I've never been there, I get jealous of the curators there every time I hang around the website.

Don't read fiction? Are you one of the seven people who still read newspapers? Then The Newseum is for you! It's a great museum and the section on the coverage of 9/11 is both moving and educating. It's the kind of museum you go to for infotainment, and if you want to be infotained, it's one of the best locations for it in DC.

Hey, you're an Adventure fan? Cool! GO to the National Geographic Society museum. It's not always the best of museological experiences, but they put together some fun exhibits! I clearly remember the first time I went and there was a tiny exhibition that centered around a single sled. I think it was what was used to conquer the North Pole or something. It was a real cool exhibit. The National Museum of Natural History has an incredible amount of taxidermied animals like Elephants, Tiger, and the like, as well as other biology-based exhibits.

*There are plenty of
Art Museums, none
better than the
American Art
Museum!*



Space Opera fans already know where they're going as soon as they step off the plane – The National Air & Space Museum. It's the greatest collection of planes, rockets, satellites, space rocks, space suits, rovers, and other fun stuff there is! It's a lovely building, and it's got a decent cafeteria. There is a LOT of space fun to be had at Air & Space. And let us not forget that the National Museum of Natural History has an excellent selection of meteorites and other space stuff as well.

You only read the books of Dan Brown? Hey, the Scottish Rite Temple and Supreme Council Library has a small set of exhibits, and does a good guided tour. There's a great virtual tour of the House of the Temple which houses the library and exhibits. You will also recognise the building from *The Day The Earth Stood Still*. The place is featured in Brown's *The Lost Symbol*!

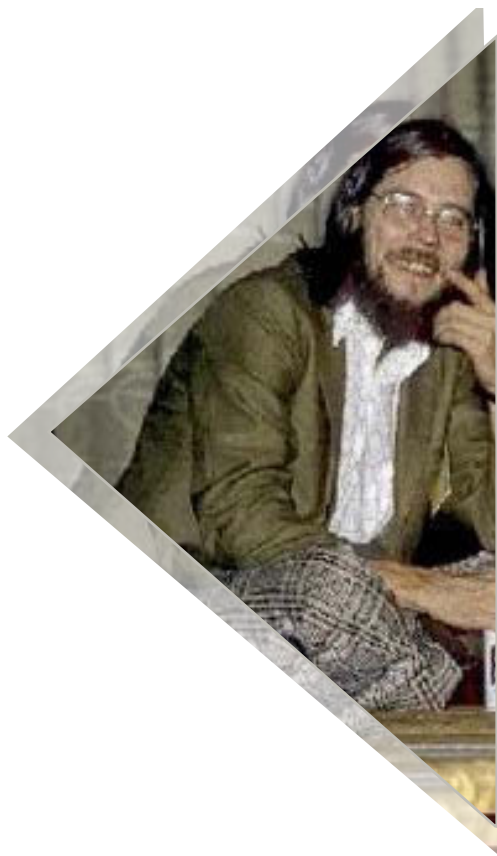
And there are a ton of Art Museum. And ethnographic museums. And historical houses. And on and on. It's a city of museums, and that's just one reason why you should vote to bring WorldCon back to Washington, D.C..



The Death of Rieben Salazar at the American Art Museum. I was a researcher on it when I had my Internship at the Smithsonian

DISCON II

SECTION 1

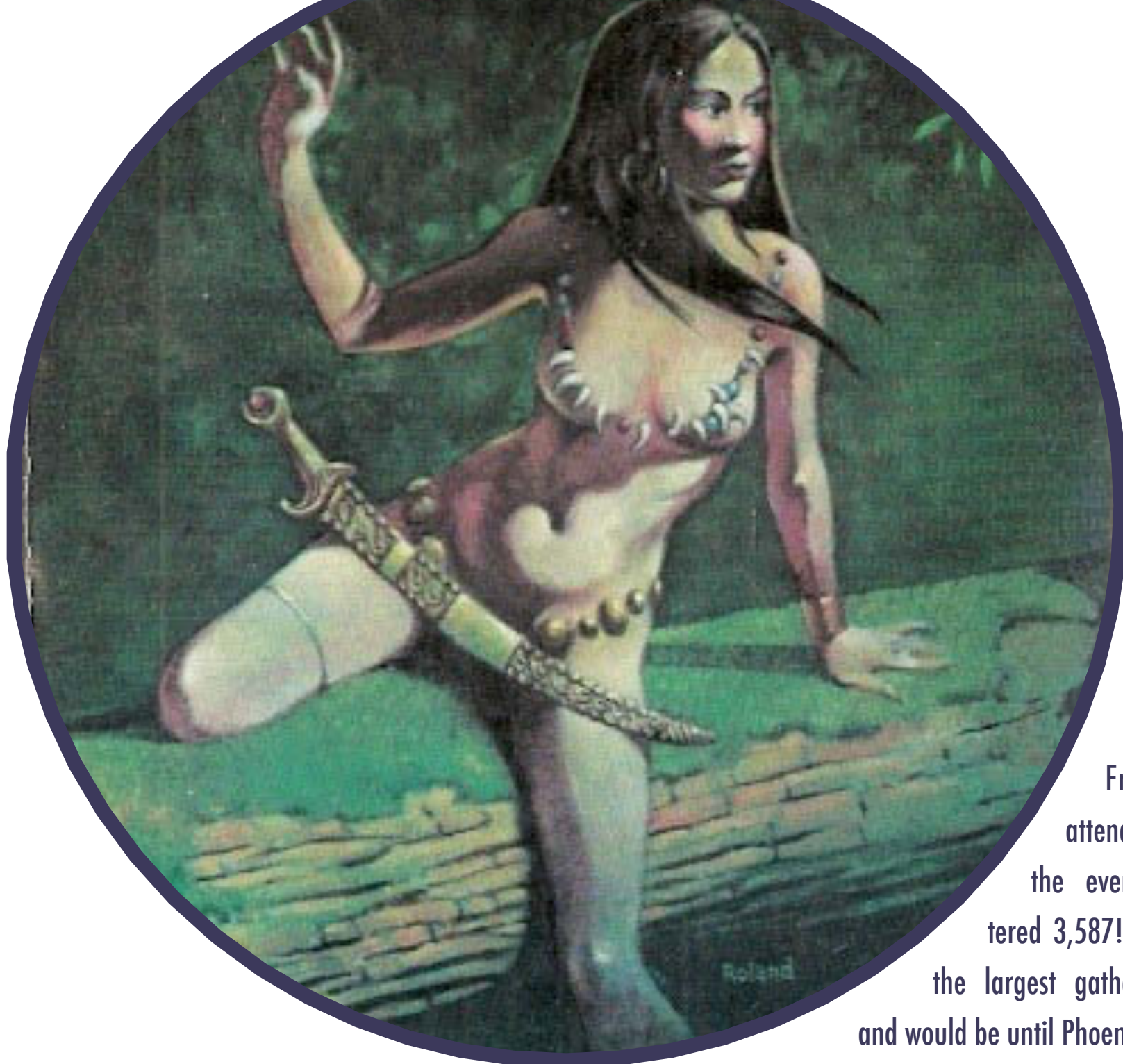


**Discon II Chair Jay
Haldeman
Photo by David
Dyer-Bennet**

DAVE KYLE'S DISCON II REMINISCENCE

1974

Eleven years after Washington, D.C. had held the 21st World SF Con. The big weekend came again to the nation's capital city. Discon II in 1974, officially the 32nd convention, was enormously different in almost every way.



From 600 in attendance in 1963, the event now registered 3,587! It was by far the largest gathering to date and would be until Phoenix in 1978.

The site was the Sheraton-Park Hotel and Motor Inn, possessing the largest convention facilities in the district (where Presidential Inaugural Balls were held). As I remember that year, I believe that this rambling, historical place was the former Park Shoreham or Shoreham Park, much like a resort hotel, with glass-enclosed promenades connecting various buildings and looking out over the landscaped grounds.

Registration (and films) began on Thursday, with the opening ceremonies at noontime Friday. Our weekends were getting longer. The announced intention for two themes in programming was phrased this way: "When Armstrong and Aldrin stepped out on the Lunar surface in 1969, they were taking the 'giant step' that many of us had taken vicariously for decades. To emphasize the close relationship between actual occurrences in the space program and the interest of science fiction writers and readers, the team was awarded a special Hugo

DISCON II

*Originally
appeared in
the
Noreascon 3
Program
Book*

by St. Louiscon in 1969 for 'The Best Moon Landing Ever.'" (How did I manage to overlook this special Hugo in my report on that convention? For shame!) So, that was the focus of the "Outer Space" theme. As for an "Inner Space" theme, in part the con committee said, "The Discon II feels it appropriate to take a closer look at where our present developments may lead us. We hope to examine the question of whether or not our tomorrows can survive our todays." After the official start, there were these two keynote speeches to underscore the themes of the con: "Outer Space: Space Travel Then and Now" and "Inner Space: Our Earth and Its Future in the Hands of Man."

The programming, reflecting these themes, was put on a single track. "Single tracking" (no simultaneous and thus conflicting panels and speeches, etc.), traditional for decades, was used for the entire weekend. There were, however, many side events going on. There were the usual set features such as the Masquerade (there's that term again for the costume parade and contest), the Hugo Awards Banquet (with a Pre-Banquet Cocktail Hour) — \$11 for the chicken and \$12.25 for the steak — the Art Show, the Hucksters' Room, the Auction, and films shown on daytime and all-night schedules. The NFFF (N3F) had a hospitality room, of course, and the SFWA and the SFRA (Science Fiction Research Association) had ongoing activities, along with events such as the Burroughs Bibliophiles' Dum Dum and the Georgette Heyer Tea. Multi-tracking would soon be the accepted way to program as growing attendance and many diverse interests would make this new approach popular.

Though Roger Zelazny, one of the newer celebrities appearing on the scene, and Jay Kay Klein were the guests of honor, the convention became almost an Isaac Asimov-Harlan Ellison weekend spectacular. On Saturday, they had a slam-bang dialogue which rocked the audience with enthusiastic delight. In the evening, Harlan presented his movie, *A Boy and His Dog*, as a special event, complete with commentary. Later, on a panel, he described his encounters with the frustrating ways of Hollywood productions.

Monday afternoon closed the weekend. The following year was now on everyone's mind. Well, anyhow, lots of minds, because a new phase of Worldcons was begin-

DAVID KYLE

SO MUCH TO DO, SO LITTLE ~~Time~~ WORD COUNT

Peter Lougee



I am not usually one to write blithe and generic “we have so much cool stuff to do here!” articles, but here I am. I feel like Washington, D.C. has so much to offer as a destination, that it should be fairly obvious that our city is pretty awesome. That is a technical and highly analytical assessment, you understand; I’d say I have confidence to at least the 95th percentile.

Alas, as the campaign to bring Worldcon to D.C. in 2017 has gotten underway I realize that many in the fan community still imagine D.C. as a slab gray, granite political machine that...ok, ok, so that part still exists.

What many people don’t realize is that Washington, D.C. is really a tale of two cities: one is a workhorse of political ambition and uninspired government architecture crammed with humorless politicians, yes; but the other is a city that has seen a huge influx of young people that have settled in an area with reliable public transportation, cultural support of their creativity, and more than a few nerdy and fannish interests. Because, really, find me a city filled with people interested in the nuances of political science that doesn’t embrace other nerdy interests. I dare you.

Let me start with a location close to my home in the city – Fantom Comics. Once a staple of Union Station, this independent comic shop crowd funded a move to Dupont Circle, a thriving hub of D.C. life. There, Fantom has found not only a home but a thriving community from all walks of life. And it supports this community too, by offering events ranging from the weekly Comics and Cocktail Happy Hours to guest signings that have in-



SO MUCH TO DO...

cluded the likes of Sam Ellis. Their Halloween party had more people than the bar I had been at, if that is any indication of the strength of D.C.'s comic book community. I'd also recommend heading across Dupont Circle after for a quick bite, drink, and some coffee at Kramer's Books and Afterwords Café, open twenty-four hours on the weekends.

A bit north is the nationally famous Politics and Prose, which not only features an extensive collection on their shelves but daily readings from authors both near and far. Their staff is friendly and knowledgeable, with well curated recommendations that offers many picks from the science fiction and fantasy genres. The in-house Modern Times Café offer great coffee and delicious baked goods, along with free wi-fi and a showcase of local artists and musicians.

A bit further away, but still accessible via public transit from the proposed WorldCon site in Woodley Park, is Labyrinth Games and Puzzles. I first heard of Labyrinth when I attended a board gaming happy hour event at the Goethe Institut that was celebrating the cultural rise of the ever-popular Settlers of Catan, and Labyrinth had provided the games. At that event I talked with the owner of Labyrinth, and got to know her vision of a gaming store that declined to sell a single game with a single electronic component in the age of mobile gaming and console wars. It was a cause I was eager to explore, and I have since visited Labyrinth on as many occasions as time and wallet permit. Labyrinth stocks everything from complex weekend-spanning eight player strategy games, to children's games and everything in between.

These are just some of the great places that D.C. has to offer members of WorldCon in 2017. I haven't even mentioned the much more obvious things, like the world famous Smithsonian Institute museums and National Zoo yet, either. And really, my editor would never allow me the space to really talk about all the things I like to do in D.C., so I'm not going try. Besides, the WorldCon isn't until 2017. By then I'd be willing to bet even more places will open that cater to the interests of the fannish community, because the city will never run out of smart, interesting, people flocking to our neighborhoods.

SECTION 1

ROBERT BERKS' EINSTEIN PHOTOS BY VANESSA

Believe it or not, I have two favorite sculptures in Washington. They are both done by the same artist, and they have both been my faves since I was a kid on a trip to DC in Middle School. They're both incredibly distinctive, and both are among the most popular in the entire District.

The two statues are both by the legendary Robert Berks. The first one I remember seeing way back in 1988 was the bust of John F. Kennedy at the Kennedy Center. I remember thinking that it looked like someone had been chewing metal bubble gum. On my



Robert Berks- 1922 to 2011

next trip, we stopped by another statue across from the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. It was a huge statue of Einstein made in the same style, based on a sculpture that Berks had done of Einstein in 1953 based off an actual life sculpture.

As luck would have it, Vanessa's family knew Mr. Berks (who passed away in 2011) and she had wonderful photos from a visit she made to his studio in 2009. They're wonderful stuff of the sculptor and her family with his works, including a 1/2 scale version of the Einstein statue!

The John F. Kennedy bust is listed as Berks' best-known work in many locations (including Wikipedia) though I maintain that the Einstein statue is far more beloved. You can go to the site, right in front of the National Academy of Sciences, almost any time and find kids climbing all over him! It was a highlight of my second Washington trip.

So, here are some fine photos of Vanessa, Robert Berks, her Grandparents, and Mother, all hanging out at the Berks studio on Long Island!



EINSTEIN STATUE

*Robert
Berks -
1979*



