

# ICON 38 Presents : DreamCon



A Science Fiction , Fantasy and Horror  
Writers Workshop - *Exclusively for High School Students*

**Friday, November 15, 2013 - 1-5 PM**

**Marriott Hotel, 1200 Collins Rd. NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

Here is a chance for students to meet with Professional Writers and Editors  
working in these genres of literature.

Get tips on writing: Techniques, Strategies, Effective Storytelling Tips

Selling your story: Submitting Manuscripts, Getting Read and Getting Chosen by Editors

Accepting Criticism, The Revision Process, Self-editing, Collaborations

Publicity: Self Promotion, Agents, Web Sites, Networking, Conventions, Fans, The Press

## Our Guests include:

Writers Nancy Kress, Jack Skillingstead, Joe Haldeman, Jim C. Hines, Gregory Frost,  
Rachel Aukes, Christian Schoon, Anna Kathryn Davis, Abby Ryan,  
Editors Ellen Datlow and Elisabeth Chretien, and Agent Gay Haldeman

**These are people who have won multiple awards in the field,  
both from fans and from other writers:**

including Hugos, Nebulas, World Fantasy Awards, Locus Reader Polls, Horror Writer Association, Shirley Jacksons, Bram Stokers, International Horror Guilds, Black Quills, Lifetime Achievement Awards, John Campbells, Asimov's Readers Polls, Theodore Sturgeons, James Tiptrees, and more. Some of them have been working in the field for over 40 years; others for just a few years.

They were all beginning writers at one time, too!

## To register for the workshop, visit [iowa-icon.com/icon38/DreamCon](http://iowa-icon.com/icon38/DreamCon)

Registration for this event will open on Tuesday, September 3.

Admission to the workshops are \$15 for students. Teachers and Chaperones are admitted free.

This event is strictly limited to 120 students. Positions will be filled in the order received.

The workshop will run from 1-4 P.M. There will be short lectures and then individual small group sessions where questions are encouraged. From 4-5 PM, attendees will have an hour to visit some of the Convention functions opened on Friday afternoon, including the Art Show, Dealer's room, and the MindBridge Gaming Library.

If you want to see more, your \$15 fee can be converted into partial payment for a longer membership at the Con. Be sure to keep your pass with you!

For more information about ICON, go to [iowa-icon.com/icon38/DreamCon/](http://iowa-icon.com/icon38/DreamCon/)

Or email Dana Beatty at: [DreamCon@iowa-icon.com](mailto:DreamCon@iowa-icon.com)

*This is not a Community School District publication. It is being distributed through the school district as a community service of the district to inform you of other community activities or services available.*

## DreamCon Panel

### **Ellen Datlow - Editor GOH (Guest Of Honor)**

... is a multiple-award-winning editor who has been editing science fiction, fantasy, and horror short fiction for almost thirty years. She was fiction editor of *OMNI Magazine* and *SCIFICTION* and has edited more than 50 anthologies, including the horror half of the long-running *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror*. She has won:

- 9 World Fantasy Awards
- 5 Locus Readers Poll Awards
- 4 Hugo Awards
- 3 Horror Writers Association Awards
- 2 Shirley Jackson Awards
- 2 Bram Stoker Awards
- 2 International Horror Guild Awards
- 2 Black Quill Awards
- The 2007 Karl Edward Wagner Award for "outstanding contribution to the genre."
- The Lifetime Achievement Award given by The Horror Writer's Association in recognition of her overall body of work.
- Won the 1st *Posto Nero* Excellence Award for Foreign Editor
- **and** has been nominated for 122 other Awards

Ellen is currently tied with frequent co-editor Terri Windling as the winner of the most World Fantasy Awards in the organization's history (nine). She lives in New York.

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### **Gay Haldeman - Mommy GOH + a founding member of Icon**

(Mary Gay Potter Haldeman) has a Master's degree in Spanish Literature from the University of Maryland and another in Linguistics, from the University of Iowa. She teaches in the Writing Center at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) every fall, specializing in English as a second language. The rest of the year she resides in Florida, where she manages writer Joe Haldeman's career. She's been going to SF conventions since 1963 (so has Joe) and loves to meet new people. After 48 years of marriage, she still thinks Joe's the best thing that ever happened to her.

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### **Joe Haldeman - Artist GOH, famous author, + a founding member of Icon**

... is an American science fiction author. He is best known for his 1974 novel *The Forever War*.

He has been a published author since 1969; his first short story was published in Galaxy Magazine. Joe has won:

- 5 Hugo Awards
- 4 Nebula Awards
- **1 Grand Master Nebula Award**
- 3 Locus Readers Poll Awards
- 1 World Fantasy Award
- 1 John Campbell Award
- 1 James Tiptree Award
- 2 Asimov's Poll Award
- **and** has been nominated for 57 other Awards

Many of Haldeman's works, including his debut novel and *The Forever War* (his second) were inspired by his experience serving in the Vietnam War, where he was wounded in combat, and by his adjustment to civilian life after returning home. He resides in Gainesville, Florida and Cambridge, Massachusetts and teaches writing at MIT. His latest book, *The Best of Joe Haldeman* was published in March of this year and is a collection of 19 stories, including: "Seasons" and "The Hemingway Hoax". He also wrote a novel titled *Earthbound*, published in 2011, which was the last book in a trilogy that began with *Marsbound* and *Starbound*. In addition to being an award-winning writer, Joe is also a painter.

## **Nancy Kress - Writer GOH**

... is the author of 32 books, ranging from science fiction novels to fantasy novels, to short story collections, and books on writing and is currently a Nebula- and Hugo-nominee for her most recent novella, *After the Fall, Before the Fall, During the Fall*. She writes often about genetic engineering, as in her most widely known novel, *Beggars in Spain*. She has won:

- 4 Nebula Awards
- 2 Hugo Awards
- 1 John Campbell Award
- 1 Theodore Sturgeon Award
- **and** has been nominated for 78 other Awards

Nancy's fiction has been translated into nearly two dozen languages (including Klingon).

Nancy Kress lives in Seattle.

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## **Jack Skillingstead - Writer GOH**

... grew up in a working class neighborhood south of Seattle. He dropped out of college to work in a cannery in Alaska, later travelling to Maine and then returning to the Pacific Northwest. Skillingstead won a writing competition sponsored by Stephen King in 2000, and was a finalist for the Sturgeon Award in 2004. He has been nominated for 6 awards:

- Asimov's Poll (3)
- Locus Readers Poll (2)
- Theodore Sturgeon (1)

Skillingstead has published more than 30 short stories in publications including *Asimov's*, *F&SF* and *Realms of Fantasy* and is also the author of three books, the most recent (May, 2013 ) called *Life on the Preservation*. His work has also appeared in various *Year's Best* volumes and *Solaris Rising*. Jack currently lives in Seattle.

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## **Jim C. Hines - Toastmaster Writer**

... is the author of 9 fantasy novels, the latest of which is *Codex Born*. (Five of those nine books include a flaming spider named Smudge.) He's also published more than 40 short stories, and occasionally contorts himself into awkward cover art poses for his blog. He has recently won:

- 1 Hugo Award (2012)

His first professional sale was the award-winning *Blade of the Bunny*, which was published in *Writers of the Future XV*. Jim's books have been translated into German, French, Czech, Polish, Turkish, and Russian.

He lives in Michigan with his wife and two children, along with 2 dogs, 2.75 cats, 2 guinea pigs, a hamster, and an unstable number of fish.

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## **Abby Ryan - Young Adult Writer**

... started *The Light and Dark Chronicles* when she was eight years old and finally wrote *Orphan of the Shadows* as a sophomore in High School. Abby resides in Eastern Iowa. Specific authors that have inspired her include Cassandra Clare (*Mortal Instrument books*), J.P. Taylor (*Shadowmancer*), Becca Fitzpatrick (*Hush, Hush Saga*) and Kiersten White (*Paranormalcy Trilogy*). When asked about her novel, "*Orphan of the Shadows*" she said that it was inspired by real people.... "The book itself is an allegory. "Elon" is me. Even though I'm not an orphan, I'm a middle child, so I often felt like one. "Sheva" (scary to say) is even a reincarnation of me. I get all my anger out through her... I'm really a rather cheery girl, I promise! "Albree" was inspired by my brother. "Glynnii" was inspired by my best friend. "Cael" was inspired by a guy I knew from my youth group.... and I'll leave it at that."

## **Gregory Frost - Writer Guest + a founding member of Icon**

... is the author of 8 novels including the *Shadowbridge* duology (Del Rey) and *Fletcher's Brides* (Tor). He has been nominated for 13 awards:

- Locus Readers Poll (4)
- James Tiptree (3)
- Theodore Sturgeon (2)
- Hugo (1)
- Nebula (1)
- World Fantasy (Best Novel Finalist) (1)
- International Horror Guild (Best Novel Finalist) (1)

His short stories have appeared most recently in *Asimov's Magazine* (Oct/Nov 2013), *Supernatural Noir* (Ellen Datlow, ed.), *V-Wars* (Jonathan Maberry, ed.), and (along with Joe Haldeman) *StarShipSofa Stories* (Tony C. Smith, ed.). His essay on Slipstream fiction appears in *The Cambridge Companion to Fantasy Literature* (Edward James & Farah Mendlesohn, eds.)

Frost is director of the fiction writing workshop at Swarthmore College. **Far** more important is that he and Mark Moore co-chaired the first two Icons. "Sláinte."

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## **Anna Kathryn Davis - Young Adult Writer**

... grew up in a single-parent household, and because of that, she became very good at entertaining herself. As a child, she loved to dress-up in crazy costumes and put on shows for her family. She began creatively writing in about the third grade. Her true love of writing didn't develop until her seventh grade year when a teacher suggested she do so after reading a few of her poems. It wasn't until two years later, at the age of fifteen, that Anna finally wrote her first full-length manuscript. Don't expect to ever see it, though. Anna has been quoted saying things like, "It keeps me humble" and "I'm proud of it, but it will never see the light of day."

Anna is a nineteen year old author from Central Alabama, whose first young adult fiction novel, *The Gifted*, debuted in April of 2013. Anna signed with Tate publishing in her senior year of high school in 2011 at seventeen years old. *The Gifted* has already outsold all projections for its first quarter and has been added to two school summer reading lists. Anna is currently a student at the University of Alabama studying English and sociology on full scholarship while continuing to write "*The Gifted series*".

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## **Rachel Aukes – Guest Writer**

.... writes science fiction, dark fantasy, and horror because she loves asking, "what if..." (and killing people). Rachel's latest novel, *100 Days in Deadland*, is a retelling of Dante's Inferno with a shambling twist.

Under the pen name Berinn Rae, she writes the same stuff only with a romantic twist. She has 6 books out under her pen name, including the *Colliding Worlds Trilogy*, *Guardians of the Seven Seals* series, and the USA Today recommended novella, *Stealing Fate*.

### **Some Awards & Accolades:**

- 2013 RWA Silken Sands award for best short story (*Stealing Fate*)
- Top 10 Book of 2012 by Step into Fiction (*Collision*)
- 2012 EPIC finalist for best fantasy romance (*Knightfall*)
- 2012 Bookie Award nominee for best fantasy romance (*Knightfall*)
- Top 10 Book of 2011 by Books of Love (*Knightfall*)
- Des Moines Register Spotlight: "Rachel Aukes: Renaissance Woman"

Rachel is also a member of the Horror Writers Association (HWA).

## **Christian Schoon - Young Adult Writer**

... is the author of *Zenn Scarlett*, the first book in a Young Adult science fiction series published by Strange Chemistry Books. His background includes a stint as an in-house writer with the Walt Disney Company in Burbank, California, followed by freelance writing for the entertainment industry and scriptwriting for live-action and animated TV programming for companies including Warner Bros, NBC, Hallmark, FoxKids, Saban, and Hanna-Barbera. Currently he writes from his 160 year old farmstead in the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City corridor which he shares with a fluctuating number of horses (generally less than a dozen but not always), numerous cats, two dogs, two ferrets, and a surprisingly tolerant wife.

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## **Mickey Zucker Reichert - Guest Writer/Writer's Workshop for Icon**

.... is a pediatrician and author whose claims to fame include being the product of two rocket scientists and having performed brain surgery, while being neither a rocket scientist nor a brain surgeon.

Mickey's novels include the "I, Robot" trilogy (To Protect, To Obey, To Serve) authorized by the Isaac Asimov estate; three trilogies about the Renshai (the first perversely titled "Last of the Renshai"), the Bifrost Guardians pentalogy (5 books), two books about the assassin "Nightfall," the "Books of Barakhai," "Flightless Falcon," "The Unknown Soldier," "A Time to Die," and "Spirit Fox" (with Jennifer Wingert) in addition to more than sixty short stories (including "Thieves World"), several articles and one novella.

Some awards she's received include (but aren't limited to):

- The Archon Hall of Fame Professional of the Year (2002)
- NameThatCon Toastmistress for Life (1990's)
- Multiple books on the SF bestseller lists
- Short stories have been in several "Year's Best" collections
- The Renshai books were the British Book Club's main selections (6 times!!)

### **Academic:**

- She was a Treasurer of the SFWA (Science Fiction Writer's Association) from 1995-97 in addition to many other academic awards....

Mickey lives in Iowa with her husband, three children, as well as two stepchildren + a variety of pets, including: six dogs, six parrots, six peafowl (666-argh!), a fluid number of barn cats, an ancient gecko, fish out the whazoo, a dozen chickens, a horse and a miniature donkey.

If you'd like to do a Writers Workshop with Mickey, mail in your manuscript of not more than 25 pages to:

Writer's Workshop

308 E. Burlington St #300

Iowa City, Iowa 52240

or email it to:

[writersworkshop@iowa-icon.com](mailto:writersworkshop@iowa-icon.com)

Maximum 4 manuscripts (First come, first served).

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## **Elisabeth Chretien - Acquisitions Editor (U of I Press)**

... started writing science fiction and fantasy short stories at the age of 8, and once dreamed of becoming a renowned science fiction novelist. Instead, she went into publishing and is now an acquisitions editor at the University of Iowa Press, where she acquires and develops both scholarly works of literary and cultural criticism, as well as books for a more general audience about literature, creative nonfiction, memoir, and a host of social issues. She regularly serves on panels about book publishing at conferences across the country, speaking to diverse audiences about how to get published, how the publishing process works, and what the future of the publishing industry may (or may not) look like. Ms. Chretien holds bachelor's and master's degrees in English literature from the University of Nebraska, where she wrote her undergraduate honors thesis about contemporary adaptations of Arthurian legend and her master's thesis about the mash-up novel *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*. She currently lives in Eastern Iowa with a black cat, her partner, and too many books.

## **Dennis Green - Author**

... says the best life advice he ever heard was from Robert Heinlein, who said “*Specialization is for insects.*” So, ask Dennis what his occupation is, and you’ll have to pick from writer, radio personality, teacher, sports announcer, tech geek, husband, or dad.

Best known in Iowa for his long career as a radio personality, Dennis’s on-air adventures were covered by newspapers from Anchorage to Los Angeles, and he has received awards from Billboard Magazine, JazzWeek, and many community organizations.

Dennis’s first novel, the sci-fi thriller, “Traveler,” has just been released by Mbedzi Publishing. He is the editor of the triathlon news site, [www.heartofamericanatri.com](http://www.heartofamericanatri.com), and also muses on his own blog, [www.denniswgreen.com](http://www.denniswgreen.com).

By day, he is the general manager of Iowa’s only jazz radio station, KCCK-FM. And if it’s 5:30 am, you can probably find him in the pool, working out with the Milky Way Masters swim club.

He lives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with his wife (Debbie), and 2 sons (Alex and Jack).

Follow Dennis on Twitter, @dgreencr

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## **Jed Q. Peterson - Author**

...was born and raised in Ames, Iowa, and has degrees in history from Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa, and the University of Iowa plus is currently an assistant professor of history at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He has travelled extensively throughout the world, visiting five continents as well as living in Brazil for two years and is constantly looking for his next adventure. 2012 saw the release of his first full-length novel, *Hade's Gambit*, Book 1 of the Kryptenia Conspiracy, co-written with fellow authors Michael Koogler and Jaren Riley. It is a unique spin on the last days, and the opening book in a series that will take readers through the final battle for the souls of mankind. A sequel, *The Rise of Cain*, was released in 2013 and continues the epic war for earth's fate at the end of time. Jed enjoys spending time with his five fantastic children, is a member of his local school board, and does his level best to live the life less journeyed.

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## **Michael Koogler - Author**

....was born in Dayton, Ohio and currently resides in Coralville, Iowa with his wife, children and two less-than-intelligent cats. Michael is an avid reader of all things fiction and loves bringing his own stories to life. His first full-length novel, *Hade's Gambit* (Book 1 of the Kryptenia Conspiracy) was co-written with fellow authors Jed Peterson and Jaren Riley and offers a new and edge-of-your-seat spin on the last days. It was released in July of 2012 and will be followed up by the exciting sequel, *The Rise of Cain* in the fall of 2013. His first solo novel is a fantasy/sci-fi thriller entitled *Convergence* and is due out late 2013. He has also collaborated on a supernatural/horror short story anthology with his publisher, Mbedzi Publishing, adding his voice to *Sadistic Shorts*, also due out late 2013. He continues to balance his time between work, family, and penning the as yet unnamed 3rd book of the Kryptenia Conspiracy, as well as his second fantasy novel, *Mirror*, and a bio-tech thriller that's just too crazy to talk about, even though it has a killer title!