

Albacon 2004

Progress Report #2



Welcome

It seems like time is just flying by lately. Only a few short months ago, we sent out the first progress report. Now you're reading the final progress report before the convention and Albacon is marching closer.

The Albacon home front has been evolving and we wanted to update you on what is shaping up to be a very interesting convention. The Albacon web site will always have the most recent information. If you have any questions or concerns not answered in this report, please feel free to let us know at committee@albacon.org.

Fandom in the Northeast has a lot to look forward to this year. As many of us are preparing for Albacon 2004, others are gearing up for Noreascon 4 in Boston. And a few of the diehards are doing both! You know the drill by now: *plan the vacation time, book the hotels early, and organize your books for signatures.*

Included with this report, you will find a copy of our current flier. The reverse side of it is a registration form. If you send in a registration for Albacon by mail, please use the form. Sending us just a check does not provide us with all of the registration information that we need. If you have already registered, then please pass the form on to a friend or post it at a local bookstore. Help us build up fandom in the Northeast!

Christopher J. Ford
Director of Publications
publication@albacon.org

Introducing An Albacon Supporter!

Traitor Dachshund Books

Publisher of [Julia and the Dream Maker](#)

by

P. J. Fischer

www.juliaandthedreammaker.com

Coming this Fall!!!

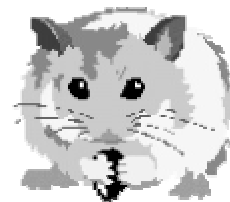


Guests

Confirmed Guests & Participants

The following guests and program participants have been confirmed as of the dates listed. Check the Albacon web site for a current listing.

- Mike Benveniste (07/2004)
- Susan de Guardiola (08/2004)
- Keith R.A. DeCandido (12/2003)
- Jennifer Dunne (07/2004)
- jan howard finder (02/2004)
- Carl Frederick (07/2004)
- Esther Friesner (12/2003)
- Deb Geisler (07/2004)
- David Hartwell (07/2004)
- Kit Hawkins (07/2004)
- Paul Levinson (12/2003)
- Paul Martens (07/2004)
- Will McDermott (12/2003)
- Terry McGarry (07/2004)
- Virginia McMorrow (07/2004)
- Clayton McNulty (07/2004)
- Priscilla Olsen (07/2004)
- Tamora Pierce (02/2004)
- Peter Prellwitz (07/2004)
- Rowena (07/2004)
- Don Sakers (07/2004)
- Pamela Sargent (12/2003)
- Jennifer Schwabach (07/2004)
- Josepha Sherman (07/2004)
- Ian Randal Strock (07/2004)
- George Zebrowski (12/2003)



Introducing An Albacon Supporter!

Faith & Fairies

A Novel of Faithcraft
by

CS Haviland

www.faihandfairies.com

Published by **Legendmaker Scriptoria**
Coming in 2005!!!

A Returning Albacon Supporter!

Elegant Arts Society

<http://www.elegantarts.org/>

The primary mission of the Elegant Arts Society is to promote historically-accurate Regency-era social dance, particularly in the tri-state area (NY-NJ-CT) and the rest of the Northeastern United States.



Art Show

The deadline for registering for the Art Show is **September 7, 2004**. If you are interested in showing at Albacon and have not yet received a mailing, please send email to committee@albacon.org or US mail to **Albacon 2004 Art Show, P.O. Box 2085, Albany, NY 12220-0085**.

Please Note: *There is an error in the original Albacon Art Show paperwork that was sent to artists. In the Art Show Fees item #3 it says that only one panel/table can be reserved - it should say *two*! The committee apologizes for the mix-up. If you wish to reserve more space please email your request to committee@albacon.org.*

Confirmed Artists

The following artists have been confirmed as of publication.

Alan F. Beck (Attending)
Charlene Taylor D'Alessio (Attending)
Elizabeth Janes (Attending)
Jim Clouse (Mail-In Only)
Joel T. Keener, MFA (Attending)
Theresa Mather (Attending)
Moifa (Mail-In Only)
Betsy Mott (Mail-In Only)



Hotel Information

There is good news and there is bad news. The bad news is that Albacon is moving into another hotel this year. The good news is that it is a "real" hotel in downtown Albany. The Crowne Plaza Hotel Albany City Center (as the Crowne Plaza folks call it) has 384 guest rooms and more function space than we can even dream of using, at least until we double in size. We are using a small portion of that space, so we will be sharing with other groups. Albacon has yet to share a facility, mainly because we have been in such small facilities. This is a facility we can grow Albacon in... and of course they have an indoor pool and hot tub.

Room rates are \$109 per night, single/double/triple/quad. Suites are \$259 per night and should be booked through Albacon (email hotel@albacon.org if you want a suite). There is free self parking in the attached parking garage for Albacon attendees. There is free shuttle service to/from the Albany/Rensselaer Amtrak station, and the Albany International Airport. The Albany Bus station is about an eight city block walk away. The hotel has a full service restaurant (and a number of the committee can vouch for the quality of the food) and a bar with food service (some of the committee has also eaten/drank here). There are a good number of eateries, both local and chain, within a two city block walk. Half the rooms in

the hotel have a view of the NYS Capital building, the other half have a view of the Hudson river (a very nice view in the fall).

Hotel Reservations

Our room block is being held until 3:00pm on September 10th. After that time you may or may not be able to get a room at the Albacon rate, in fact, you may not be able to get any room in the hotel. We can only guarantee the Albacon rate until that cutoff time. Please do not wait until the last minute to make your reservation. In fact, it is more important to make your hotel reservation early than to buy your Albacon membership. You can always buy a membership at the door, you won't be able to get the Albacon room rate at the door. There are two ways to make a hotel reservation, via phone or via the hotel web site. You may call either the Crowne Plaza toll free number (1-800-2CROWNE) or the hotel directly (1-518-462-6611). To use the hotel web site, the easiest way is to go to the Albacon web site (www.albacon.org) and follow the links for the hotel page and the Crowne Plaza page from there. In either case, you need to use the Albacon group code, which is SCI, when making your reservations. If you have trouble getting the type of room you want, just email hotel@albacon.org and we will assist you. Please make sure you tell the hotel how many people will be staying in the room (up to four), there is no difference in rate for one to four people in the same room. An accurate count helps the hotel plan for things like restaurant staffing, helps the Albacon committee plan for events, and the more bodies we pull in the more points Albacon gets with the hotel.

Suites

The hotel has plenty of suites, but there are other groups booked into the hotel at the same time as us. Albacon has a limited number of suites in our block, but if we need more, we can add them if they are available. If you want a suite, please email us at hotel@albacon.org since the Albacon suites are being managed by the Albacon committee as in past years.

Rates

Single	\$109 per night
Double	\$109 per night
Triple	\$109 per night
Quad	\$109 per night
Suite	\$259 per night (book through Albacon email hotel@albacon.org)

Cutoff Date:

September 10, 2004 @ 3:00 pm EDT

1 (800) 2CROWNE

1 (518) 462-6611

<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/cp/1/en/hd/albdt?irs=null>

Group Booking Code: SCI

Reserve early, reserve often.

Paul Kraus

Facilities Coordinator



Directions

You are going to the Crowne Plaza Hotel at State and Lodge Streets, Albany, NY 12207.

From the East (Boston)

I-90 West, at NYS line enter the NYS Thruway
Stay on I-90, exit NYS Thruway at Exit B-1
Cross the Hudson River, stay to the right for...
Take I-787 South to...
Exit 4B, "US-9 N, Clinton Ave."
Go straight through light at end of ramp,
At second light turn Left onto Rt. 32, N. Pearl Street

To park:

After a few blocks, turn Right onto Pine Street (there is a light at this corner). The entrance to the parking garage is about 1 block up on the left.

To go to the hotel:

After a few blocks, turn Right onto State Street (this is a major intersection with a light). Go one block and turn Right onto Lodge Street. The Hotel is immediately on the right.

From the South (NYC)

I-87 North (NYS Thruway) to...

Exit 23 to I-787 North to...

Exit 4 "US-9 N / US-20 W" and go North for 0.5 miles

Turn right on Broadway and go North for 900 feet

Turn left on State St and go 0.2 miles

Turn Right onto Lodge Street, the Hotel is immediately on the right

To park, continue to end of block,

Turn right onto Pine Street,

The entrance to the parking garage is about 1/2 block down on the right.

From the North (Montreal)

I-87 South to...

Exit 7, Rt. 7 East to...

I-787 South to...

Exit 4B, "US-9 N, Clinton Ave."

Go straight through light at end of ramp,

At second light turn Left onto Rt. 32, N. Pearl Street

To park:

After a few blocks, turn Right onto Pine Street (there is a light at this corner). The entrance to the parking garage is about 1 block up on the left.

To go to the hotel:

After a few blocks, turn Right onto State Street (this is a major intersection with a light). Go one block and turn Right onto Lodge Street. The Hotel is immediately on the right.

From the West (Buffalo, Toronto)

I-90 East (NYS Thruway) to...

Exit 24, I-90 East to...

I-787 South to...

Exit 4B, "US-9 N, Clinton Ave."

Go straight through light at end of ramp,

At second light turn Left onto Rt. 32, N. Pearl Street

To park:

After a few blocks, turn Right onto Pine Street (there is a light at this corner). The entrance to the parking garage is about 1 block up on the left.

To go to the hotel:

After a few blocks, turn Right onto State Street (this is a major intersection with a light). Go one block and turn Right onto Lodge Street. The Hotel is immediately on the right.

A Returning Albacon Supporter!

Flights of Fantasy

Books, Games, & Accessories

<http://www.fof.net/>

We have the largest selection of NEW & USED Science Fiction & Fantasy, Mystery & Suspense, and Romance Books in the Capital District!

Regency Dance

Enjoy lively historical dancing of the early 1800's the era of Napoleon and Wellington, Jane Austen and Lord Byron! Albacon's annual Regency Dance will again be hosted by the Elegant Arts Society (<http://www.elegantarts.org>). Regency costume is admired but not required. Absolutely no experience is necessary - all dances will be taught and called by Susan de Guardiola. The Regency Dance is scheduled for Friday night after the Ice Cream Social.



Publications

Newsletters

There will be a total of 6 newsletters at Albacon this year. If you intend on arriving on Thursday or early on Friday, pick up a copy of the Thursday edition. It will have ideas on where to eat, any changes or program updates that we have, and additional onsite contact information.

There will be 2 editions on Friday and 2 editions on Saturday. The final edition on Sunday morning will include updated weather and travel reports as well as the information for Albacon 2005. If you would like anything included in the Thursday edition, it must be received prior to Noon on Monday. See the Contacts section of PR #2 for email and mailing addresses. After that, submissions will only be accepted onsite. To submit articles, party information, or write-ups, please drop them in the In Box at Operations. The location of Operations will be posted.

Souvenir Book

As always, this collectable will include biographies on our guests, a letter from our chair, and other tasty tidbits. Make sure to pick up your copy at registration.

Program Book

This is your guide for the convention. It will include programming information, area hours and schedules, and maps. Remember to grab one at registration.

Additional Information

If you have any questions about our publications or would like to submit material, send it to publications@albacon.org or Albacon 2004, ATTN: Publications, PO Box 2085, Albany NY 12220-0085.



Albacon at N4

We will be holding a promo party at Noreascon 2004 (a.k.a. Worldcon, N4, "the big September SF thing in Boston"). It will run Saturday night from 9:00pm to Midnight. Check the party listings onsite for a location. Stop by and show your support. Better yet, bring someone by that's never been to Albacon and help us spread the word! Hey, there will be snacks and drinks. Relax a little and let us know your thoughts on how the Hugos or other parts of N4 went. Or give us ideas for Albacon! For more information

on N4, visit their website at <http://www.noreascon.org/>.

Contact Us

Chairman:

Steve Sawicki
chair@albacon.org

Treasurer:

Kurt C. Siegel
committee@albacon.org

Art Show:

Jenny Kraus
committee@albacon.org

Dealer's Room:

Joe T. Berlant
dealers@albacon.org

Facilities Coordinator:

Paul Kraus
hotel@albacon.org

Director of Gaming:

Walter Wedenbine
gaming@albacon.org

Gopher Wrangler:

Bill Ryan
operations@albacon.org

Director of Operations:

Bill Ryan
operations@albacon.org

Programming:

Joe T. Berlant
Chuck Rothman
programming@albacon.org

Director of Publications:

Christopher J. Ford
publications@albacon.org

Convention Registration:
registration@albacon.org

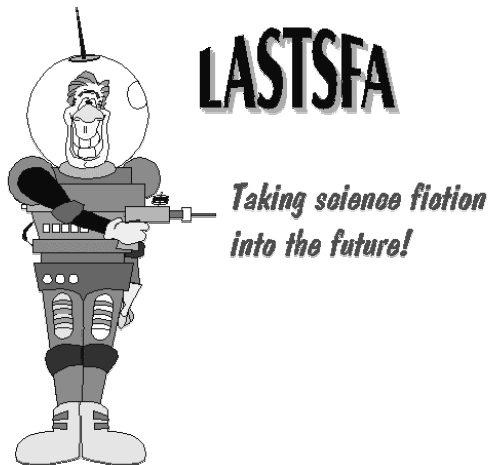
Hotel Registration:
1-(800)-2-CROWNE
Mention Group Code **SCI**.

Hotel Problems:
hotel@albacon.org

Web Site:
Christopher J. Ford
webmaster@albacon.org

US Mailing Address:
Albacon 2004
P.O. Box 2085
Albany, NY 12220-0085
USA

For any areas not mentioned above, please
contact the entire committee.
committee@albacon.org



Albacon In A Nutshell

... and what a nutshell it is! Ever been asked to describe Albacon when you mention to someone that they should come? Ever been stumped on how to put it into words? Try this:

Albacon is a weekend gathering of fans and creators of Science Fiction or Fantasy. This includes the areas of literature, movies, games, and other mediums. We spend a weekend discussing, debating, conversing, and socializing about these and many other related topics. Come and join us! Bring a friend!

More Groups Supporting Albacon!

Lunacon

<http://www.lunacon.org/>

Lunacon is the annual New York Metropolitan Area science fiction convention run by the New York Science Fiction Society - the Lunarians, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization.

Trinoc-Con

<http://www.trinoc-con.org/>

The Premiere Research Triangle Speculative Fiction Conference! Art GoH: Jael -- Gaming GoH: Sam Lewis -- Literary GoHs: Sharon Lee & Steve Miller

CON*CEPT

<http://www.conceptsf.ca/>

Montreal's Annual Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention. Montreal's only fan run convention! We cover all aspects of fandom: literature, television, comics, art, gaming, and much more!

FCS Gaming League

<http://www.firstduty.org/add/league/>

Sponsoring both independent and RPGA games in the Capital District area since 2001.

Contact publications@albacon.org to become a supporter of Science Fiction in the Northeast!

Albacon is an endeavor of **LASTSFA**.
LASTSFA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.