



Joshua Dillen The Clackamas Print

Peter Honigstock and Timothy Zahn discuss important details about Powell's Sci-Fi Authorfest. Honigstock is in charge of the science fiction section at the store. Zahn has authored several Star Wars novels and holds a Hugo Award for his novella "Cascade Point."

Sci-fi authors and fans unite at Powells

By Joshua Dillen
The Clackamas Print

Sometimes words just go together. Like science, fiction and fantasy. The mind quickly conjures images of aliens, dragons or worlds of wonder and fantastic design that boggle the imagination. Put those words together with a place like Powell's Books at Cedar Hills Crossing and an event like Sci-Fi Authorfest V and you almost have excitement beyond explanation; at least for any self respecting sci-fi or fantasy reader.

The perfect literary cocktail is mixed with the literary on the revered the likes of Ursula K. Le Guin, Timothy Zahn, Elizabeth Ann Scarborough, Phyllis Irene Radford, Brent Weeks, Camille Alexa and many more favorites of the genre. The power of this book signing fraught with well respected and loved authors was clearly evident last Sunday as the 4:30 p.m. start of this epic event neared.

The cherry to top this amazing gathering of literary might, is the appearance of the Cloud City Garrison of

501st Imperial Legion. Imperial Storm Troopers even!

Sci-Fi Authorfest is the ultimate book signing, for literary lovers and nerds alike.

Elizabeth Ann Scarborough, who served as a U.S. Army nurse in Vietnam, besides authoring over 30 books, arrived early and chatted with her friend Lea M. Day, a volunteer for the event. Day, also a retired veteran, was there to volunteer during the set up of the Authorfest.

"[Day] suggested something like that, a similar event in Seattle at the university bookstore. It was very successful," said Peter Honigstock, who heads the sci-fi section at Powell's Cedar Hills crossing. Why can't we do something like that here? So that kind of was the genesis for organizing and working out the details," he continued as he described the conversation he and Day had more than five years ago when they contemplated the first Sci-fi Authorfest at Powell's Books. Five years later that conversation has proved the insight and wisdom of two book lovers can attract readers by the dozens.

"I've always been a sci-fi reader from the beginning, from a very early age," said Honigstock, "It's such a really great experience in terms of having this many authors, both newer authors, local authors, bigger names lesser known names. [It] is just really great for the fans, great for Powell's, great for the authors, 'cause they enjoy it."

According to, Honigstock the event was scheduled to coincide with Orycon, Portland's premier Science Fiction Convention, to hopefully attract more authors.

Timothy Zahn, author of "The Star Wars Trilogy," and "Star Wars: The Hand Of Thrawn" besides nine novels and six series, is the 1984 winner of a Hugo Award for his novella "Cascade Point".

Lines were long, books were signed, Storm Troopers stood guard and the world of science fiction and fantasy was the point of it all.

"Keep reading," said Zahn.

Readers of fantastical prose can be assured that their imaginations will be satisfied and look forward to next year's event.

Open mics brings writers graditude

By Chris Taylor
The Clackamas Print

As we come closer and closer to Thanksgiving, we reflect on our lives. We look back at the year that has passed and we think to ourselves "What am I thankful for?" Though we may look back and see that we have fallen upon dark times, there are moments that shine through the darkness and give us a hope. We all express our thankfulness in our own ways but for some, the answer is in writing.

On Tuesday, Nov. 22, the Clackamas Community College English Department will be hosting "Gratitude Open Mic," from 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. in the Literary Arts Center (Roger Rook 220). In the spirit of the upcoming holiday, this event is an opportunity for students to share their own writing or writings they have found that express their gratitude.

Gratitude Open Mic is open to CCC students, faculty, and the surrounding community.

The English department hopes that this event will inspire those who attend, whether listening or sharing, to read and write more. Each participant is asked to bring material no longer than three minutes in length. Participants may read a poem, letter, short story, monologue or anything they bring that expresses their gratitude.

"It's always good to share your writing," said Trista Cornelius, CCC English Instructor. "It's great to have a real audience to react to what you wrote, too."

"To those who may be first time sharers, I'm more than willing to work with you and help you," said Sue Mach, event organizer. Gratitude Open Mic is a comfortable place for you to share your work without being criticized or just listen to others. "Don't be afraid, just do it. This event is a good, safe place to do it, it's supportive and a great atmosphere."

These types of events have been held in the past and greeted fairly well over the past

few years. It's been an enjoyable experience for some. "I'm always very moved and very surprised by what people bring to share. It's great to know that despite what people have going on in their lives, they can take a few moments to compose something so beautiful to share. It's very astounding to me," said Mach.

The English department hopes to keep these events going and have them more often. They plan on having a similar event on Valentine's Day, also known as Oregon's birthday and 'May Day' or the first day of spring. Students are more than willing to share. "I would be interested in attending the open mic, because I would like to share my opinions and thoughts to everyone else and open up their minds," said CCC student, Sarah Fuge.

So whether you're an old or new hand at writing and sharing, you should check out Gratitude Open Mic. You may find that you're better than you think you are. It may even open up your eyes a little.

TWEAKS OF THE WEEK

Things to do if college life is tweaking you out:

Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair
Clackamas will host the Hiring Our Heroes Career and Benefits Fair on Nov. 19 at the Oregon City Campus. The event is open to all veterans, service members and families. The fair will feature veteran-friendly employers and service providers.

If your band has a gig or there isevent that you want featured in tweaks of the week email aced@clackamas.edu