

# THE INVASION GROWS!

## A Word from the Chairs

Our invasion force is increasing! A new Guest of Honor, confirmed room parties, chosen charities -- the plan is coming together. You can be a part of it, and not just as an attendee. We're always looking for people who can help an hour or two (or more) by badging, staffing programming rooms, refilling snack bowls, and other tasks. The more hours you log, the cooler the reward you can earn, besides the warm fuzzies you get from helping out. Read on and learn how to sign up and who you can help. The Invasion is counting on you!

--Gail Celio and Katie Nelson, Chairs for MarsCon 2009



### **\*NEW!!\* Media Guest of Honor Musetta Vander**

A native South African, Musetta was raised without that most basic of modern conveniences - television! However, her childhood was filled with numerous song and dance performances and shortly after school she qualified as a ballet teacher herself. After earning a Bachelors Degree in Communications and Psychology, she landed the plum job as anchor host for an MTV-like television show

in South Africa. Marrying an American, she was whisked off to the very place she had always dreamed of—Hollywood. Shortly after her arrival, she became part of the very world she used to host, appearing as the 'dream girl' in more than twenty music videos for top recording artists including Rod Stewart, Tina Turner, Elton John, and Chris Isaak. Her critically acclaimed stage performance in the original South African play *Soweto's Burning* facilitated her transition to the big screen. Since then, Musetta has been fortunate to work alongside such screen veterans as Kevin Kline, Kenneth Branagh, Will Smith (*Wild Wild West*), George Clooney, John Turturro (*O Brother, Where Art Thou?*), Jennifer Lopez (*The Cell*), Robert Duvall and Will Ferrell (*Kicking & Screaming*). She's also added guest appearances on the hit shows *Stargate SG-1* and *Frasier*. Musetta recently completed two films: *Say it in Russian* which was shot on location in Russia with Rade Serbedzija, and a sequel to the very successful National Lampoon comedy *Dorm Daze*. She is currently filming *Order of Redemption* opposite Tom Berenger, Armand Assante, and Busta Rhymes.

## Get a Room! Same Hotel, Different Year

We will be returning to the Holiday Inn Select for 2009. The room rates will be \$89 + tax for a regular room and \$109 + tax for suites. Parties will be grouped together on the 13th floor, close to the Con Suite and Krushenko's. Smoking parties will be on 12th floor.

To reserve a sleeping room, call 952-854-9000 or 1-800-HOLIDAY, and make sure to mention "MarsCon" in order to get the reduced rate. Tip: Try calling the 952 number first during regular business hours, and please let us know if you have any trouble getting the MarsCon rate so we can help. Taking a room at the hotel is a wonderful way to enhance your convention experience. It gives you a home base, a place to park your stuff, entertain friends, and land whenever you finish with partying throughout the convention weekend...not to mention it makes the host hotel very happy with our multifaceted convention.

**Hotel Amenities:** The Holiday Inn Select offers free high-speed Internet access in all guest rooms. There is a fitness room and a Junior Olympic sized pool on site with a video arcade, ping pong, and a whirlpool spa next to it. For your dining enjoyment, the Harvest Cafe and Greenhouse Lounge are located on the first floor of the hotel. Harvest Cafe offers daily breakfast buffets. Kids 12 and under eat free. Greenhouse Lounge features a full service lunch and dinner menu, Happy Hour specials, 5 TVs and a pool table. Complimentary shuttles are available to transport you to or from the hotel, the mall, and the airport throughout the convention weekend.

**Directions:** The Holiday Inn Select is at Three Appletree Square, Bloomington, MN 55425. You can find it easily by going to I-494 & 34th Avenue South in Bloomington, MN.

For drivers, free parking is available at the hotel. The ramp has low clearance, but there is an open air lot adjacent to it where you may park your over-sized land speeders. **IMPORTANT:** MarsCon attendees are welcome to park in the unmarked underground parking spaces. There are 2-3 levels of underground parking hidden in the bowels of that parking ramp -- lots of spaces that go virtually empty each year. So don't be intimidated by the "hotel parking on top level only" signs. Keep your car free of snow and avoid the crowds by daring to venture below ground.

For folks planning to use LRT to travel to MarsCon, the Hiawatha Line (Route 55) goes right by the Holiday Inn Select. Bloomington Central Station is about a block-and-a-half walk to or from the hotel. Please note that fares recently went up to \$2.25 during peak hours and \$1.75 during off-peak hours. For more information including routes, times, and discounts, go to <http://www.metrotransit.org>.



## MEET OUR OTHER GUESTS OF HONOR



### Artist Guest of Honor

#### Scott Rosema

Scott graduated from Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1979 with a degree in Illustration with a minor in Advertising. For seven years, Scott worked at his local newspaper learning the process of four-color printing. In 1990 Scott made the jump into professional comics. His first gig landed him a two-year stint

working on the *Tiny Toons* property, followed by illustrations for TSR, and paintings and pages for Marvel and Valiant. Scott has worked on merchandise for *Batman: The Animated Series* and many Cartoon Network properties including *Space Ghost*, *Looney Tunes*, *Johnny Quest*, and others. Put off by the ups and downs of working with all these companies, Scott wanted to do a creator-owned project. Through Arrow Comics, his character August made it into an anthology and two of its own issues in 1999. Some of Scott's recent work has involved artist sketch cards for *X-Men 3* and *Xena*. Scott enjoys sharing his art and techniques, especially with young artists. He has taught art to summer campers, and was an Artist in Residence at the Muskegon Museum of Art. Recently he's given seminars at the Strong Museum of Play in Rochester, New York.



### Artist Guest of Honor

#### Suzanne Hiza-Rosema

Suzanne started working with glass during her undergraduate years. A friend was taking an art class, and had brought some equipment and supplies home with her and showed them to Suzanne. Suzanne played around with the materials, learned some techniques, fell in love with the medium, and never looked back. While working at a dental lab, she continued working with glass, picking up techniques from the local

stained glass store. In 1995, she put in (and won) a project bid for a local church, which led to a full-time job at the glass store. Suzanne worked at the store for five years, and then set up shop at her home. Initially, Suzanne created small window hangings, trinket boxes, and jewelry. As Scott encouraged her to attend comic conventions with him, she quickly added science fiction and fantasy pieces to her wares: pins of winged cats, dragons, and wizards. Later, Suzanne and Scott combined her glass technique with his comic art, and she started producing unique window hangings of superhero logos and comic characters. She has taken commissions from fans of *Batman*, *Wonder Woman*, *Doctor Doom*, *Star Trek*, *Looney Tunes*, *Stargate SG-1*, *Doctor Who*, and others, and produces officially sanctioned glass boxes featuring Billy Tucci's Shi and Joe Linsner's Dawn.

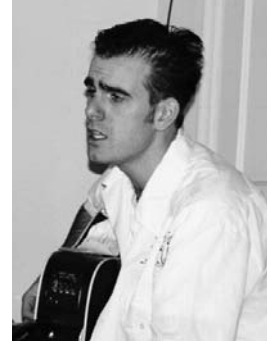


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### Music Guest of Honor

#### Wally Pleasant

Wally was born in Detroit, Michigan, the son of college students. During his childhood, Wally heard "I Want You to Want Me" by Cheap Trick, and his life would never be the same. Wally started mimicking his favorite rockers in the mirror with a cardboard guitar. Then, on his 14th birthday, his parents offered to pay for his guitar lessons. Armed with only an REO Speedwagon songbook and a dream, Wally got on the road to guitar proficiency. After high school, Wally attended Michigan State University and began performing at various open mic nights, each week writing a new song. A local radio station requested material, but Wally had not yet recorded. So he sat down with a boom box and filled a 90-minute Memorex tape with his songs. That tape sold over 5,000 copies. Wally next began releasing CDs. His first, *Songs About Stuff*, came out in 1992 and was an instant hit on college radio. Four more CDs followed, including *Welcome to Pleasantville*, *Houses of the Holy Moly*, *Wally World*, and *Hoedown*. Wally's recordings have charted in the Top 20 nationally on the CMJ and Gavin College charts. His music has been featured on such syndicated programs as *Acoustic Cafe*, *Dr. Demento*, and *The Difference*, not to mention Ted Nugent's morning radio show in Detroit. All told, Miranda Records has sold over 75,000 units of Wally's music. He has toured all over the country (except Oregon), and been featured in *Billboard* and *The Wall Street Journal*.



### Author/Science Guest of Honor

#### Jeanne Cavelos

Jeanne is a writer, editor, scientist, and teacher. She began her professional life as an astrophysicist and mathematician, teaching astronomy at Michigan State University and Cornell University, and working in the Astronaut Training Division at NASA's Johnson Space Center. Her love of science fiction led her to earn her MFA in creative writing. Jeanne moved into a career in publishing, becoming a senior editor at Bantam Doubleday Dell. In 1994, Jeanne left New York to pursue her own writing career. Her first published book, the *Babylon 5* novel *The Shadow Within*, has been reissued by Del Rey. Two of Jeanne's nonfiction books, *The Science of Star Wars* and *The Science of The X-Files*, received high praise. Her last novel to hit the stores was *Invoking Darkness*, the third volume in her best-selling *Babylon 5* trilogy "The Passing of the Techno-Mages". Recent works include the novella "Negative Space" in the anthology *Decalog 5: Wonders*, and several essays analyzing real-world issues from the TV shows *24* and *Farscape* as well as *Star Wars*. Jeanne is currently at work writing a near-future science thriller about genetic manipulation titled *Fatal Spiral*. Jeanne also created and serves as director of *Odyssey*, an annual six-week summer writing workshop for writers of fantasy, science fiction, and horror held at Saint Anselm College in Manchester. During the school year, Jeanne is an English lecturer at Saint Anselm College, where she teaches writing and literature.



## Announcing Our Charities for 2009...

Thank you for the great nominations for designated charities. A live vote was held at our October planning meeting, and the results are in! MarsCon 2009 charity auction proceeds will be split evenly between the Gordy Dickson Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Twin Cities' Second Harvest Heartland.

The Gordy Dickson Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2002 for three purposes: (1) To honor Gordy Dickson, local fan and science fiction and fantasy pro writer who died in 2001. (2) To collect money to send potential new writers to the Clarion Workshop for SF and fantasy writers or to some other workshop. Gordy always encouraged new writers. (3) To promote accord in Twin Cities fandom by having a project that various fan clubs and individual fans can work on together. For further news and information about the fund, see <http://sffan.org/gdmf/>.

Second Harvest Heartland is Minnesota's largest hunger-relief organization with a mission to end hunger through community partnerships. The food bank solicits and warehouses large food donations, then distributes them to its 950 non-profit member agencies and programs in 59 counties in Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Second Harvest Heartland also operates a perishable food rescue program and provides direct service to seniors and families through its supplemental nutrition programs. 96% of donations are applied directly to programs. For every \$1 donation, Second Harvest Heartland is able to distribute more than \$9 worth of food. For more information about Second Harvest Heartland, visit <http://www.2harvest.org> or call 651-484-5117. If you would like to contribute to Second Harvest Heartland prior to the convention, consider bringing donations of non-perishable food items to one of these drop-off locations: 1140 Gervais Avenue, Maplewood, MN 55109 OR 3100 California Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418.

### How You Can Help

There are many ways you can support our designated charities, both before, during and after the convention. Please consider any and all of the following suggested activities:

Donate cool stuff for the charity auction! Surely you have a book, toy, service or other treasure that another fan would appreciate. Drop it off at one of our planning meetings or at the Operations desk before 10am on Sunday, and we'll auction it off for you.

Contribute to the food drive! Bring non-perishable items such as canned or boxed food, hygiene products and cleaning supplies to the Operations desk during the convention. Donations will go directly to Twin Cities' Second Harvest Heartland.

Food drive party contest! Each non-perishable item you donate to the food drive counts as one vote for the party of your choice, and you may vote as often as you like. We'll post a giving chart by Registration so you can keep track of how well your favorite party is doing, and possibly rush out to buy more cans/items to stuff the ballot box. Voting closes at 10am Sunday, and we'll announce the winning party at Closing Ceremonies. Make sure to include a slip of paper with your donations specifying your nomination for best party.

Participate in the charity auction! Bring your money, and bid on things. Remember, you are helping two worthwhile causes.

Volunteer! You can help with setting up the charity auction. We will need runners and tabulators during the auction. Volunteers are also needed to keep track of party nominations and update the giving chart. After the convention, we will need drivers to transport food drive donations to Second Harvest.

Please help make our charitable endeavors a huge success. If you are planning to host any other charitable activities or events at MarsCon, we would be happy to include those events on our programming schedule as well. Thank you for your continued generosity!

## Hospitality

You just wiped hours of sweat from your brow. For the last few hours you have fought through countless foes on level after level. Now before the final battle, you need a break... Come to the Hospitality Rooms of MarsCon.

### Elysium Sanctum, Room 1321

This year, Elysium Sanctum will be about one thing: CANDY. Snacks and drink will be there also to be had by all. If you want to help, join the crew in the Sanctum.

### Dragon's Breath, Room 1212

Lady Angela returns this year as the mistress of the Dragon's Breath, a sanctuary for those who need a smoking break indoors.

### Rue Morgue Massage, Room 1313

Joining the Hospitality ranks this year are the crew with the magic touch. Their famous back and full body massage will be ready to relax those who have been off fighting this Invasion.

### Snarky's Café, 13th floor

Lady Jan and her staff will keep the agents of hunger at bay. Send in your Café registration form (included in PR2) with a check, and receive delicious hot meals during the con without leaving the comfort of the hotel.

Enjoy yourself, and we look forward to seeing you. Game on.

--Christopher RiversBey, Hospitality

## "Shall we play a game?"

Hello again, all you dice jockeys, card slingers, and table top titans. Gaming is shaping up to be better than ever. We've lined up more events, from booster drafts to role-playing adventures, and don't forget free gaming during all hours of operation and prizes fit for a gamer. This year we have adventures from Dark Heresy and from Mutant Chronicles the RPG. Reapers Miniatures will also have painting demos. If you want free stuff, volunteering is a great way to show support for the con and game at the same time. If you have an idea for a game or an event you would like to run, contact me through the MarsCon homepage at <http://marscon.org/2009/index.php>. So come to gaming at MarsCon 2009 and create stories you'll be telling around the table for years to come. Remember, keep those pencils sharp, your dice clean, and never let go of life's mox'es. We'll see you there.

--Dan Penwarden, Gaming



## Rates for MarsCon 2009

	10/31/08	1/31/09	At the door	Discounted at 2008 Con
Through Adult	\$35	\$45	\$55	\$25
Child	\$15	\$20	\$20	\$15
Supporting*	\$20	\$25	\$25	\$15

\*Supporting members pay a reduced rate through 1/31/09 to hold tickets and then complete the purchase by paying an additional \$25 at any time up to and including at the door.

Please mail the form below with your payment (no cash, please) to the following address:

MarsCon  
P.O. Box 21213  
Eagan, MN 55121

or register through our web site using Paypal.

E-mail: [info09@marscon.org](mailto:info09@marscon.org)

Web site: <http://marscon.org/2009>

Holiday Inn Select: 952-854-9000 or 1-800-HOLIDAY

## MARSCON 2009 PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (2): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (W): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please e-mail me:  MarsToday updates

Progress Reports as PDFs

Group Discount: Groups of 10 or more can take \$5 off each registration if they register as a group. The registrations must be submitted together and payment must accompany the registration forms. This cannot be combined with other discounts.

Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I need information about:  Dealers' Room  Art Show  Gaming  Masquerade  Party Room © 2008 FenSF,PR2

Badge Type:

Adult

Child (6-12)

Supporting

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Badges do not designate Adults over 21. Expect to be asked for a valid ID at all parties serving alcohol.

I want to volunteer! Please contact me!

### Snarky's Café – MarsCon 2009

3 Hot Meals, Sandwiches & Salads Available During Marscon

Friday, Saturday, Sunday – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Available by Paid Registration Only**

All food is bought from the money from Snarky's Registrations – not from Con Funds.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost \$25 Per Person: Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_

Con Com \_\_\_\_\_ Dealer's Room \_\_\_\_\_ Party Rooms \_\_\_\_\_ Art Room \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteers (5 hrs minimum) \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Drink: Hot Tea \_\_\_\_\_ Coffee \_\_\_\_\_ Decaf Coffee \_\_\_\_\_ Pepsi \_\_\_\_\_ Diet Pepsi \_\_\_\_\_ Lemonade \_\_\_\_\_

Mt. Dew \_\_\_\_\_ Green Tea \_\_\_\_\_ Water \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepaid Registrations received by February 20th are \$25.

**Registrations after February 20 go up to \$35 each, with some limited availability during MarsCon 2009.** Make checks to Jan Swenson; note in Memo – "Snarky's". Information available by e-mailing [snarkyscafe09 AT marscon DOT org](mailto:snarkyscafe09@marscon.org). Please note

"Snarky's" in the Subject line.

Mail form & payment to:

**Snarky's Café**

c/o Jan Swenson

8200 Noble Ave N.

Brooklyn Park, MN 5443-2428

Breakfast available starting shortly after 07:00 am.

Dealers Room members (prepaid registrations only) – Stop in at Snarky's for Breakfast. We are looking for runners to take orders and deliver food for lunch and some suppers. If you have 2 or more people at your table, please try to send someone up to pick up food for your Snarky's resistered group or take turns coming up for food (Names will be checked). Supper meals start about 06:30 pm and go until 09:00 pm with food available at all times of the day from 07:00 am – Midnight. Some supper deliveries will be done but if at all possible, stop in for food.

**Planned menu:**

**Breakfast:** waffles, oatmeal, bacon, fruit toppings

**Fruits and Veggies:** apples, bananas, dried fruit, Clementines, carrots, cucumbers, celery, onion, peppers, lettuce, spinach

**Lunch/Dinner:** soups (chicken wild rice, potato with veggies & cheese, French onion), sandwich fixings (beef, ham, cheeses

(American, provolone, cheddar), mustard, Miracle Whip), cottage cheese, yogurts, hummus, salad dressing, Hamburger Stroganoff, Penne noodles with Alfredo & marinara sauce (optional meatballs, chicken, or hamburger) barbeque chicken, pork, deviled eggs

## What's Happening This Year?!

We're taking over! MarsCon programming has expanded to fill nearly every nook and cranny in the hotel. Expect to find specialty programming rooms like the Masquerade Lounge (featuring workshops and discussions for costume enthusiasts), Karaoke Joe's Cafe (hosting nightly, non-stop karaoke and contests), Re(a)d Mars (home to literary discussions, poetry, readings, and nightly filk-sings), and Krushenko's (a con tradition serving up SF discussions in the daytime and conversational SF-related parties in the evenings). Take a tour of the Art Show, the Propatorium, and Science Room. Look to our thirteenth floor film/anime room for some exciting surprises and ground-breaking events this year. On Main Stage, you will find extravaganzas like Masquerade, concerts featuring our favorite Dementia artists and GoH Wally Pleasant, as well as presentations by GoH Musetta Vander about her life on screen in fan favorites like *Babylon 5*, *Stargate SG-1*, *Buffy*, and *Xena*. The Executive Conference Room and Fuji will play host to discussions and demos on a wide range of subjects such as:

- \* International Space Station & Mars exploration developments
- \* News of upcoming films: *Watchmen* and *Wolverine*, anyone?
- \* Vampires in the media: *True Blood* to *Twilight*
- \* Art Show/Auctions, and the care and feeding of them
- \* Stained glass tips from GoH Suzanne Hiza-Rosema
- \* Illustrations slide presentation by GoH Scott Rosema
- \* Ongoing *Star Wars* rants, *Doctor Who* raves, and *Star Trek* saves
- \* Not to mention science fiction vs. science fact analysis by GoH Jeanne Cavelos

Anyone attending the convention may facilitate programming events, and we encourage you to get involved in this rewarding aspect of convention volunteering. If you are planning to host an event at MarsCon, if you have an idea for programming, or if you'd like to help with programming in some other way, please get in touch with us.

A programming ideas submission form has been added to our web site at: <http://marscon.org/2009/programming/ideas.php>. The ideas list will magically transform into a preliminary program schedule right before your very eyes over the coming weeks, so keep an eye on our web site for updates and changes.

Thank you for your ideas and assistance in making MarsCon a wacky, zany, thought-provoking, fun, and frolicsome place to be. As always, MarsCon is immensely grateful for the incredible programming contributions we receive each year from artists, authors, guests, musicians, singers, actors, fan groups, clubs and individuals. Thank you for your support!

--Christine LaBounty, Programming

## Dealers and Sales

Expect to see old and new vendors in the Dealers' Room, located in the Cortland and Fireside ballrooms, second floor. For you collectors (and folks who didn't buy one last year), MarsCon patches featuring convention mascot Snarky with a **NEW** border color can be pre-purchased on MarsCon's registration web site (<http://marscon.org/2009/registration/index.php>) for \$4.00. Pre-ordered patches will be available for pick-up at the registration table, or you can purchase them during the convention, but only while supplies last!

## Room Parties

Hear ye, Hear ye! Now is the time to book your room party so that you can start planning for the best party MarsCon has ever seen. Some fabulous groups that have already booked their parties for MarsCon 2009 are:

- \* IKV Rakehell
- \* The World Defense Force
- \* Valley Con
- \* Beth Kinderman & the Player Characters - Local Filkers' Room Party
- \* Tardis Tea Society

Parties will be on the always-rocking 13th floor of the Holiday Inn Select. Smoking party rooms can be set aside for you on the 12th floor, but act fast as they are in short supply.

To book a party, call the Holiday Inn Select and secure your reservations with the hotel via credit card or deposit. Then go to the parties page of our website (<http://marscon.org/2009/hotel/parties.php>) to fill out a party room request form.

Once you have the confirmation number from the hotel and have filled out the party request form, you can e-mail me that information at **nlpenwarden AT yahoo DOT com**. Let's make MarsCon 2009 a great convention with a floor full of awesome and amazing parties... otherwise what else are we all going to do when the panels and music are done for the night? Sleep? That cannot be allowed! We need Superheroes, Time Travelers, Klingons, and other assorted creatures to keep the con going until the wee hours of the morning.

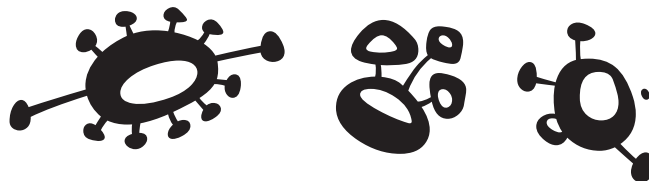
If you have any questions/comments/concerns, please email me with those too.

--Nicky Penwarden, your friendly Mistress of Parties



## Volunteer Recruitment

You've finished reading PR2, and you know about many of the areas where your time and energy would be greatly appreciated: Badging, Charity Auction, and Con Suite, to name a few. Plus, depending on how many hours you work, you'll be eligible for rewards like a MarsCon patch, access to Snarky's Cafe, and a special volunteers-only t-shirt. If you're interested in joining the not-so-few, the proud, the Martian Militia volunteer department, please contact Matt Brogmus at **volunteer09 AT marscon DOT org**.



## Advertise Your Club or Business

Advertise with MarsCon and your ad will reach an audience of SF/Fantasy fans, gamers, readers, collectors, and other like-minded beings. We are also interested in swapping ad space with other conventions.

Here are the rates for advertising in the Program Book. Please contact us by post mail or e-mail (publications09f@marscon.org) for information about ad specs. **Ads are due by January 31, 2009.** We reserve the right to refuse any ad.

Program book	Fan Group / Pro
Full Page (7" x 8.5")	\$60 / \$85
Half Page (7" x 4.25")	\$30 / \$50
Business Card	\$15 / \$25

