



## February 2012

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Thanks for reading this edition of *New Frontier*. The USS BortaS is a sci-fi fan club based in the Champaign-Urbana area of East Central Illinois. We meet the third Saturday of each month at 2 PM. We meet in a member's home, or in a park, or at a restaurant, or at Barnes and Noble Bookstore. To find out where we are meeting on any given month, please call our Captain, Allen Glenn at (217) 649-6718, or visit our newly updated website at [www.ussbortas.net](http://www.ussbortas.net). Our website will give you lots of information about who we are and what we do! We would love to have you join us. We have a lot of fun and also do many activities for charity. So come on board!

Captain Shirley Kolb, Chief of Communications and Newsletter Editor, USS BortaS

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### BortaS Headlines

USS BortaS Has Great Success with Gift Wrapping

USS BortaS Provides Gifts for Cunningham Children's Home

USS BortaS Plans Food Drive and Sci-Fi Discussion Group

Sara Glenn to be Roasted at Annual Roast in April

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In this issue .....

Museums, Mysteries, Mummies by Paula Kesler

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New Star Trek Movie Announces Release Date

Upcoming Star Trek Fiction and News from *Star Trek: The Official Magazine*

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Museums, Mysteries, Mummies

By Paula Kesler

As I move cautiously around a copse of trees I see a column of black smoke. The clearing ahead contains a disabled German supply wagon. Smoke rises in the still, warm air. A corpse, probably the driver, is visible. The horses are gone. A patrol of soldiers, not German thankfully, approaches from uphill left. The American patrol begins investigating the wreckage. Suddenly I hear shouts. A German cavalry has arrived to defend the prize. It is late in the war effort, every supply is sorely needed. Their camp must be close. Foot soldiers are running alongside, a few stop to set up a mortar. The efficient crew is lobbing shells toward the allied patrol, sending sprays of dirt high into the air. Mounted soldiers are shooting into the American patrol. Smoke, dirt, and bullets fill the air. Things are looking grim. From the rear roars a Jeep, its heavy caliber machine gun providing cover fire for the retreating Americans. Soon only the Germans remain. A whine grows in intensity. A few soldiers look skyward, then begin blasting with rifles and sidearms. The cause of the consternation is soon apparent as a P-51 begins to strafe. The fast moving aircraft gains altitude, wheeling about, executing a hammerhead turn for a return run. Those Germans who still live scatter, running for tree cover. I see the radioman on the Jeep convey their appreciation to the pursuit fighter. All part of the service. Americans

retake the field. Those supply wagons contained more than food and ammunition. The addition of treasure on its way to finance the German war machine was a very closely guarded secret. Among the stacks of crated items was an exceptionally ancient artifact, what was later identified as the venerated golden tablet of Ahkmenrah. 24 carat gold, it was to be melted into bars, Hitler's gold. This, as well as other valuables, were preserved from a destruction which would have lost them to the world.

Fast forward to the Museum of Natural History, New York, New York. Artifacts of cultural significance are to be returned to Egypt as a diplomatic gesture of good faith. During a farewell traveling exhibit the Ahkmenrah Tablet was reunited with its savior: the P-51 on display at the Chanute Air Museum, Rantoul, Illinois. This limited time exhibit honored both artifact and aircraft during the month of October.

Pay your admission. Walk past the Gift Shop to the Frasca Simulators, turn right toward the Rantoul Historical Society exhibit hall. There is a small display of Egypt. Find the Tablet there, slightly battered from its experience in antiquity. It looks right at home there, close to a lifelike World War Two diorama. The roar of touch and goes is heard from the Barnstormer, Wingwalkers, and Entreprenurs exhibit just around the corner. I take a quick look. Just the place I would expect to find Amelia Earhart walking out to the flightline. Nicely done, mechanic's shop and all, only thing missing is the smell of grease. I should visit more often. These are beautifully organized exhibits here. The reflections of the setting sun are seen on a hanger wall. It is getting close to closing time as I finish photographing the P-51. I know I had better hustle if I don't want to spend a night in the museum. Besides, I have a party to attend.

On the next page are several pictures from the Chanute Museum.



It all began with a small notice in the newspaper offering an invitation to: "The Return of the Mummy: New Imaging Results on the Spurlock Museum's Egyptian Mummy". Over twenty years ago the Spurlock Museum's acquisition was extensively researched. The question of the sex of the child mummy was not resolved, however. Technology has advanced much over two decades. A second CT scan was conducted at the Carle Foundation Hospital in an effort to

discover more details. Even so, the mystery of gender remains. The child was between 8 and 9 as indicated through the study of the teeth. Molars were shown coming in behind the baby teeth. In order to preserve a more natural body shape packing was placed in the body cavity. During the Roman Period, second century AD, this packing could consist of mud and plants. The packing here is wads of cloth. Red ocher has provided external coloration. These clues show the child's family was well to do.

Giving their opinions and descriptions of their own research were:

Allan C. Campbell, M.D. President of the Board of the Spurlock Museum; Clinical Professor of Pathology and Dermatology at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria.

Joe Barkmeier, M.D. practiced Radiology at the Carle Foundation Hospital and Physician Group for 29 years.

Dr. Jonathan Elias specializes in CT scanning and high-tech imaging of Egyptian mummies, Director of the Akhmim Mummy Studies Consortium.

Dr. David R. Hunt, Physical Anthropology Collections Manager for the Department of Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History.

Carter Lupton, Head of Anthropology and History sections at the Milwaukee Public Museum. Associate Director of the Akhmim Mummy Studies Consortium.

Emily Teeter, Ph.D. Research Associate and Coordinator of Special Exhibits at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.

Sarah Wisseman, Ph.D., Director of the Program on Ancient Technologies and Archaeological Materials, Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute.

Further information:

Digital images for publication and information specifically about mummy research: Sarah Wisseman, 217-637-3194, wisarc@illinois.edu

Museum information Museum Director Wayne Pitard, 217-265-6110, wpitard@illinois.edu

The soul of the person was believed to walk the earth only to return to their home/temple/body in order to rest. Could there be...?

Paula Kesler  
SoQol  
Science Officer  
USS BortaS  
SFI

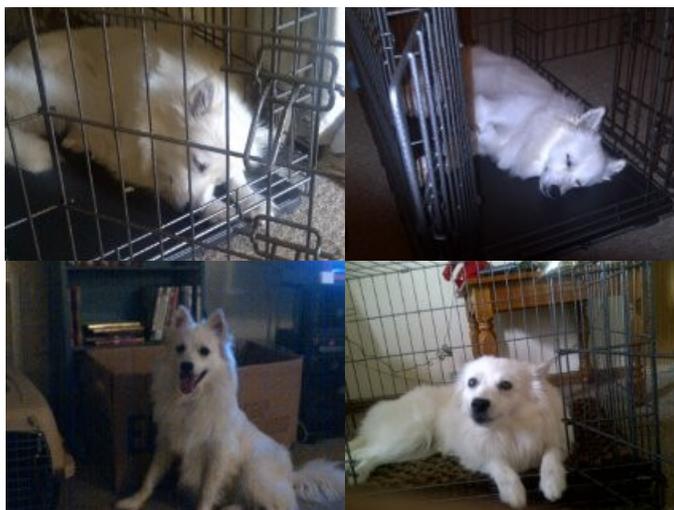
Below are pictures from the Mummy Display at the Spurlock Museum. Paula included some backdrop in addition to the mummy she wrote about. The actual mummy, as well as details of the wrapping are shown. The statue of Pharaoh Khafre and the pyramids are also shown. Even though the mummy is not royalty, Paula felt the Pharaoh gave a sense of time and place to the story.

Paula suggests an away mission to the Museum - admission is free, and the only cost is the parking meter.



Pictures from XO Shane Russell

Shane sends regards and his regrets that he has been unable to join us for meetings for the last few months. He hopes to be able to be with us soon. In the meantime, he wanted us to see some pictures of his dog Cordy. We look forward to seeing Shane again soon!



### **USS BortaS News**

By Captain Shirley Kolb, Chief of Communications

The crew of the BortaS was busy in November and December with gift wrapping at Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Champaign. There were 8 days, 10 shifts, and 11 crew members involved. All together we earned \$420.47 in donations, and had \$13.22 in expenses for a deposit of \$407.25. Part of that money was used to buy Christmas gifts for a cabin of girls at the Cunningham Children's Home. Everyone from the crew gave a Santa hat to Julie Rickard, and there are plans to create a red and green Starfleet symbol to put on the hats for all of us to wear next year for the gift wrapping.

In January we had our "Christmas in January" party at my home in Monticello. We had about 15 people in attendance and had a great time, especially during the gift exchange where many gifts were stolen more than once. (We do the gift exchange that if you want to steal a gift that has already been opened, you can do that. It is a lot of fun!)

A food drive is being planned for the end of May at the County Market in Rantoul. Details will be forthcoming on the website.

In April we will have our annual Roast. This year's roastee is Sara Glenn, wife of Captain Glenn.

A committee has been formed to set up a Sci-Fi Discussion Group. The possible location is the Urbana Public Library. Details are being firmed up now, and an announcement should be out soon as to dates and times.

The Region 12 Summit will be held in Branson, Missouri, on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at the Welk Resort. The prices are reasonable and we are hoping to be able to send a contingent from the USS BortaS.

We have gained some new members recently. Welcome to Jason Ditzler, Mary Ridinger, and Steve and Haleigh Parmley and their baby girl Fiona, and Sherri Welenc! We have also had several visitors to our meetings. And welcome back to former crewmember Tawnya Marsh, who had been living out of state for the past few years but has now moved to Decatur so can once again be an active member.

Thanks to everyone for your participation and for inviting friends to attend!

### **Star Trek Movie News**

The next Star Trek movie will be released in 3D on May 17, 2013. Originally the movie was planned for June 29, 2012, but has been moved out. As usual there is a tight lid on what the movie will be about. It has been announced that all of the stars from the 2009 relaunch are on board. The following guest stars have been announced: Peter Weller (*Robocop*), Benicio del Toro (*The Wolfman*) and Alice Eve (*Sex and the City 2*). Shooting started on the film in January.

### **News from Star Trek: The Official Magazine**

By Shirley Kolb

For the year of 2011, *Star Trek: The Official Magazine* did a series called "The 45's" where they did a review of every 45<sup>th</sup> episode of every series and took fans comments on the various episodes. They also did two Ultimate Guides to Star Trek. The first went from 1966 to 1993 (Sept. 2011) and the second from 1993 to 2011 (Oct./Nov. 2011). They did a short synopsis of every episode, ranked the five best from each season of each series and the worst from each season of each series, and then did an ultimate top 10 episodes. They also chose a Best Guest Star from each season of each series, a Most Valuable Performance, and for many seasons, a Best Moment of the season. They also reviewed all of the movies. At first I thought it was sort of a "been there, seen that" type of thing but it was actually very interesting to read. A real trip down memory lane, and fun to see whether I agreed or disagreed with those doing the reviews and choosing the best and worst. Obviously there is too much for me to go through all of it, but you may find their "Ultimate Top Ten" fascinating, so here they are:

10. *Mirror, Mirror* from The Original Series
9. *The Inner Light* from The Next Generation
8. *The Visitor* from Deep Space Nine
7. *The Doomsday Machine* from TOS
6. *Yesterday's Enterprise* from TNG
- 4 (tie). *The Best of Both Worlds* from TNG and *In the Pale Moonlight* from DS9
3. *The Trouble With Tribbles* from TOS
2. *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*, Original Series Movie
1. *The City on the Edge of Forever* from TOS

Interestingly, the Ultimate Top Ten were not always the best from their particular season. I think the reviewers considered their long-term influence and how they held up over time as well as other factors.

The July/August issue was a Starships and Space Stations Special edition and contained an interview with Rene Auberjonois.

The newest edition (Spring 2012) features Star Trek spies. It has an article about Captains Undercover as well as one on Section 31, the Black Ops Secret Starfleet section.

And of course, who would be the best to interview in an issue on spies? None other than Andrew J. Robinson, Garak from DS9.

In that interview I learned that he played the sinister Scorpio Killer in *Dirty Harry* in 1971. After that he had trouble getting roles because everyone remembered him from that movie. He said it was like they thought he was evil like that character. I also discovered that he originally was up for the part of Odo, and had several auditions for that role. When he first got the Garak role, it was supposed to be for only one episode, but the producers liked the relationship between him and Dr. Bashir so they brought him back. Ultimately he was in 33 episodes throughout the entire seven-year run of the show. "I think it always helps when the writers love a character," he said. "They utterly adored him. When he was in the script you could just see that. I would read my lines and think, 'This is just great' – I was getting some of the best stuff. Also, because he wasn't a regular character, there was always a great freshness and mystery about the Garak scenes and I think that is really evident in every episode that I did."

Robinson also had the opportunity to direct episodes of both DS9 and *Voyager*; as well as seven episodes of the show *Judging Amy*, which starred his daughter Rachel. He also wrote the DS9 novel [A Stitch in Time](#) (a great novel by the way!) which brought some closure to the character of Garak from Robinson's point of view. He has also been active on the convention circuit.

Overall he is very happy about his time on DS9 and the opportunities it brought to him.

### **Star Trek Fiction Update**

There are two new Original Series books which have just been released. The first is [The Rings of Time](#) by Greg Cox. This is a time-travel story in which Captain Kirk and the crew of the Enterprise answer a distress call from a mining colony called Skagway on a moon of a ringed planet called Klondike VI. They beam a probe aboard, and when Kirk touches it, he finds

himself in another time and place. He has changed places with Captain Shaun Christopher from the episode “Tomorrow is Yesterday.”

The second book is That Which Divides by Dayton Ward. Behind a mysterious energy field lies a planetoid that is accessible only for a short period of time every three years. When a Starfleet science vessel crashes on the planet, Kirk and the Enterprise are sent to investigate. The author says, “After more than a decade of writing Star Trek fiction, I finally got a chance to write a self-contained, old-fashioned, five-year mission story, with Kung-Fu and torn shirts, Spock/McCoy verbal jousting, and other salutes to the original series.”

I haven’t read either of these yet but you can be sure I will. I always read TOS novels – just wait for the price to come down on half.com or amazon.

There are also a book coming out in the Temporal Investigations series (Forgotten History); three books continuing the Typhon Pact series, a book in the Titan series, the end of the Vanguard series, a Voyager book called The Eternal Tide, and a Next Gen trilogy called the Cold Equation Trilogy by David Mack.

So as you can see, if you miss seeing Star Trek on the screen, there are plenty of novels you can read to keep the story going.

**USS BortaS, the Science Fiction Fan Club With a Heart, based in Urbana, Illinois. No infringement upon copyrighted materials contained herein is intended. Previous events that the USS BortaS has participated in include: Fundraisers for the American Red Cross, East Central Illinois Foodbank, Crisis Nursery, and the Champaign Fire Dept.; “Klingons for Literacy: in Rantoul and Danville; Champaign Park District’s “A Day at the Park”; Taste of Champaign-Urbana; Light the Night fundraiser for the Leukemia-Lymphoma Association; 3 fundraisers for individuals with cancer or other serious medical conditions; Security for the Rantoul Air Show and for Champanacon and other Sci-Fi Conventions. To contact us visit our website at [www.ussbortas.net](http://www.ussbortas.net) or call our Captain Allen Glenn at 217-649-6718. Meetings are the third Saturday of each month at various locations in the area.**

**The USS BortaS is a member of Starfleet – The International Star Trek Fan Association.**

