

Committee Reports



Online Committee

Welcome to www.friends-lulu.org!

Friends of Lulu has an Internet name and space for a web site. Thanks go to member Kynn Bartlett for donating Internet space for the site. Our URL is <http://www.friends-lulu.org>. However, there's nothing there yet! We need content—if you know HTML and want to help bring Lulu into the Internet spotlight, we can use your skills. Contact new site administrator Johanna Draper, at dancer@friends-lulu.org, to volunteer your services.

The Online Committee of Friends of Lulu is also looking for volunteers. Do you want to help shape Lulu's Internet presence? Discuss the most effective means of using the Net? The opportunity to be more wrong than anyone has a right to be in predicting the on-line future? Contact Cheryl Harris (74774.2171@compuserve.com) or me (address in the list art right) to volunteer.

—Jerry Stratton

Mentoring Committee

The 11-member mentoring committee met in April and came up with some concrete goals. One was outreach to people who don't know anything about comics at career days in high schools and colleges. A subcommittee was formed to work on materials for people at the local level who want to do this. This is a long-term project.

The second goal is to set up a program matching mentors with mentees who already know they want to work in comics. One person will be drafting a flyer that can be sent to publishers, distributed at cons, and distributed in any other ways that might reach comics industry professionals. The flyer should be ready by the end of May. Any professional who would like to participate as a mentor should contact committee

chair Sharon Scott (310-676-0803) or write to the FoL Cajon Way address.

A subcommittee was formed to draft the paperwork the committee will need: questionnaires for mentors and mentee applicants, a Code of Ethics for mentors, and a release for both. Another subcommittee was formed to take responsibility for portfolio reviews at the San Diego con. They are currently lining up reviewers.

—Liz Schiller

Coordinator Needed

The Board of Directors is looking for a volunteer to act as Committee Coordinator. We need someone to kickstart FoL committees and act as liaison between the board and the committees. The coordinator's duties would include (1) getting new committees up and running; (2) communicating new member information to the appropriate committee; and (3) acting as liaison to the board for: (a) project and budget proposals; (b) coordinating committee mailings with the Membership Secretary; (c) communicating information from the board to the committees; and (d) communicating information from the committees to the board in the form of a monthly report.

Committee Chairs/Contacts

Membership Committee

(Goal: Expand the FoL membership base)
Monika Livingston
P.O. Box 910
Brookdale, CA 95007
408-335-3888

Public Relations Outreach

(Goal: Produce PR outside the comics industry)
Martha Thomases
c/o DC Comics
212-636-5450

Inside Industry Public Relations

(Goal: Promote FoL and its activities within the comics industry)
Heidi MacDonald
Cooper Station, P.O. Box 1484
New York, NY 10276-1484
212-533-9630

Nontraditional Venues Committee

(Goal: Get comics into venues outside the direct market)
Liz Schiller
607 N. Tioga Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-273-4132

Fundraising Committee

(Goal: Find ways for FoL to raise funds for projects)
Heidi MacDonald (see above)

The volunteer would be reimbursed for her or his reasonable expenses such as phone and mailing costs. If you are interested in being the Coordinator, please send a statement of interest plus a summary of your qualifications by July 31 to Friends of Lulu, 4657 Cajon Way, San Diego, CA 92115, or via e-mail to Jackie Estrada at 102753.266@compuserve.com.

(Rausch, continued from page 8)

handle the *pressures*: deadlines, critical editors, the strictures of working on licensed properties, and so on. The mentor may not discover this immediately and, by being enthusiastic about the mentee's potential for getting work, raise the person's expectations. What then? I believe we need to develop some form of *mentor preparation*—maybe a workshop could be given at the major conventions that would cover the potential problems, give mentors an opportunity to practice interaction through role playing, and help mentors develop some self-insights that are essential when one is in a power position with another individual.

*Deadline for next Newsletter:
August 15*

Mentoring Committee

(Goal: Set up mentoring relationships among members)
Sharon Scott: 310-676-0803

Regional Chapters Committee

(Goal: Establish procedure for national-regional coordination)
Anina Bennett
5131 SE Hawthorne Blvd.
Portland, OR 97215
503-234-0269

Newsletter Committee

(Goal: Produce a regular FoL newsletter)
Heidi MacDonald (see above)
Jackie Estrada
4657 Cajon Way
San Diego, CA 92115
619-286-1591

Online Committee

(Goal: Set up a web site and give FoL a presence on the Internet)
Jerry Stratton
3710 Riviera Dr.
San Diego, CA 92109
619-270-6327
jerry@acusd.edu

If you would like to participate in any of these committees and have not yet been contacted to be involved, please feel free to write or call the contact person.

Some Thoughts on Mentoring

by Barb Rausch

As a member of the mentoring committee, a public art teacher of 17 years' experience, and one who has found herself in the position of mentoring two very different creative individuals, I have some serious concerns to lay before Friends of Lulu. I've discussed these concerns at some length with FoL members Sharon Scott, Denise Loubert, and Jack Enyart, and we concurred that the mentoring program should not be rushed through. Every possible problem must be thought through and, hopefully, prevented by making sure that both mentees and mentors understand exactly what they can expect of each other—especially when people under 18 are involved. I suggest we contact organizers of other kinds of youth programs to learn what the legal risks and responsibilities might be.

Before we invite people to participate as mentees, we have the grave responsibility of defining specifically in plain English what the relationship will entail. I know from experience that young people (and some adults, too!) have, unfortunately, a way of perceiving situations as they *wish* them to be, not as



they are. With possibly tragic results: for a creative person, their work is *themselves*, their *soul*! To be positive and encouraging to a young creator, yet avoid raising unrealistic expectations, is to walk on the edge of a razor. We owe it to each potential mentee and mentor—and to FoL—to structure the program to avoid every possible pitfall. One way to begin is to develop literature to accompany the applications forms—literature that will clearly explain what an applicant can expect.

This literature should include the following information, broken down into bite-sized statements:

- What is a mentor? How does a mentor help you with your work? Here we

need to enumerate all the aspects of what a mentor can do to help the mentee develop her/his skills, learn about what it's like to be a professional, learn about the alternatives available in the field, learn about educational opportunities, and so on.

- Reasons for wanting to have a mentor.
- What mentors are *not* (employers, agents, introduction bureaus, magicians).

Final thoughts for mentors: Inevitably, the mentee program is going to attract creative but *troubled* individuals who may well have the talents and the skills to work professionally but cannot

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4657 Cajon Way

San Diego, CA 92115

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Inside:

- Retailer Survey Results
- Convention Plans
- Lots of Lulu Mail
- Member News
- Lulu's Diary

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