

Charles McCollum is a retired postal inspector (federal law enforcement agent) with an interest in cryptography.

--

Paul Wieland is a professional engineer who worked for NASA from 1983 to 2005 on programs ranging from *Spacelab 3* and the Hubble Space Telescope to the Space Shuttle *Challenger* accident investigation and development of the International Space Station. He is available to speak about how space activities can help us ensure a sustainable world.

Space has been called "the final frontier," "the great beyond," and "the endless void," but it may also be "the key to a sustainable world of abundance." In *Crossing the Threshold: Advancing into Space to Benefit the Earth*, Paul Wieland presents a vision of a secure, sustainable future—with abundant energy, resources, and opportunities while ensuring a healthy environment and a high standard of living—and shows how advancing our efforts in space can help us achieve it. Written with an optimistic tone for a general audience and including personal anecdotes from the author, *Crossing the Threshold* considers the major challenges we are facing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and poses the questions: For these challenges, what are the opportunities and benefits that space activities could provide? How could our activities in space enhance other solutions? What specific actions might be included in a space program designed to address the major challenges?

There is a physical threshold, crossed as a spacecraft leaves the atmosphere for the vacuum of space, but there is also a threshold of awareness which is crossed when the entire Earth is seen against the backdrop of space, revealing the interdependence of everything on Earth. We have the power to transform the Earth, as well as ourselves, and can create a sustainable world of abundance, with opportunities for everyone to live more fulfilling and secure lives, and we can become a space-faring civilization while doing so. Explore the possibilities in *Crossing the Threshold*.

--

Joe Haber will provide a window into the world of coffee, from its humble beginnings to today's worldwide coffee industry. Starting with a brief history of coffee and ending with home roasting of green coffee beans, he will also discuss the tasting, buying, and brewing of coffee. Whether you're an avid coffee lover like him, or you're just curious, you'll gain a greater appreciation of this fabulous beverage. Joe has been a consumer of coffee for more than 40 years, a connoisseur for more than 20 years, and a roaster of his own coffee for 5 years. He has become enthralled with coffee history and arcana.

--

Donald Sheehan is happily retired from the U.S. Marine Corps and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He has 33 years of federal experience that culminated in ranks of Lieutenant

Colonel and Supervisory Special Agent, respectively. Most pertinently to this presentation, his last position was in the Law Enforcement Communications Unit, FBI Academy, Quantico, VA as the Program Manager, FBI National Academy Interview and Interrogation Program. Please note that Mr. Sheehan is not speaking on behalf of the FBI, the FBI has not endorsed this presentation, and all reporters present, as a condition of their attendance, agree not to attribute anything said during the presentation to the FBI.

--

Aaron Morrissey arrived in Washington after earning a degree in creative nonfiction at the University of Pittsburgh, and quickly found himself charmed by the intimacy of the District. After three years of covering anything and everything he could get his hands on at the blog DCist -- transit, sports, food, local media, city politics, the Obama Inauguration, Snowpocalypses and the weekend news desk, to name a few -- he was named the site's editor-in-chief in June 2010. He has contributed to the *Washington Post*, been interviewed on CNN, and has shaken hands with Bob Barker.

Geoff Hatchard is a geographer working for the U.S. Census Bureau and is a contributor to the blog Greater Greater Washington. He lives in DC's Trinidad neighborhood. The opinions and views expressed in Geoff's participation on this panel, as well as his writing on the GGW blog, are his and his alone.

A native of Tampa, Fla., Drew Long left his beloved city for Washington, D.C., in 1998. A three-year stint in North Carolina resulted in a politics column that transitioned into a monthly food column when he returned to the nation's capital in the fall of 2007. The Tar Heel state also instilled in him a love of pork barbecue (low and slow) and a taste for vinegary Eastern Carolina barbecue sauce. Drew's day job doesn't have anything to do with cooking, but it does make him look forward to spending his downtime grilling for friends and family. When he's not grilling on the patio or cooking in his too tiny Capitol Hill kitchen, Drew pursues his love of craft beer, checks out D.C.'s bar and restaurant scene with his wife, and manages his own blog, [eatanddrinkitall.blogspot.com](http://eatanddrinkitall.blogspot.com).

Drew has been grilling and barbecuing since he learned campfire cooking techniques as a Boy Scout (foil wrapped root vegetables tossed in the fire). But from slow smoked pork butts, to fish, fowl and beast on the grill, Drew has yet to discover the limits of cookin' in the great outdoors.

--

Game industry panel participants include Kathleen Donahue, owner of Labyrinth Puzzles and Games in DC; Fred Hicks, a founder of Evil Hat Productions; Amber Cook, who works in marketing, development, and sales for North Star Games; Gil Hova, game inventor and creator of Prolix; and Benjamin Sanchez, Legend of the Cipher, a hip-hop themed campaign card game.

--

Miriam Hornstein didn't know that her upbringing in MN, TX and ND was setting her up for life as a wandering Park Ranger. Currently the acting Volunteer Program Manager at the National Mall and Memorial Parks, she's also been a ranger at Arches, Canyonlands, Joshua Tree, the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Colorado National Monument, Big Cypress National Preserve, and Yellowstone, and worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Kauai, HI. Her degree is in geology although she also has studied vocal performance, so she can, as others have punned, sing "rock" songs, although musicals are much preferred.

Monica Arjev, originally from Cleveland, has lived in the DC area for three of her six years as a Mensan. A journalist by trade, she took a year and a half away from editing to work at the National Mall for the National Park Service, and continues to volunteer with the park now that she's back behind a desk all day. Next month she will be marrying a fellow Mensan, coincidentally the son of a lifelong park ranger.

--

Al Nevarez grew up in a working class family – his dad fixed telephone lines while his mom worked as a community activist with local non-profits. It was from them that he learned the value of hard work and community involvement, lessons that inspired him to run for office.

Al met his wife Jeane at church eight years ago, and they moved to Northern Virginia five years ago when Al got a job as an economic and policy analyst for the AFL-CIO, where he works to improve the lives of working families across America.

Al and Jeane have two daughters, one of whom just entered the 1<sup>st</sup> grade at Sterling Elementary. Al is on the Board for the Sterling Library and of the Loudoun Literacy Council, a member of the Sterling PTA, and an active participant in the Sterling Foundation's cleanup efforts.

--

Stanley Korn received a B.S. in physics from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and did graduate work in physics and mathematics at the University of Maryland. During his career, Stanley was employed by the DoD as a physicist, operations research analyst, and computer specialist; he has since retired. He is the coordinator of the Metropolitan Washington Mensa Parapsychology SIG and an investigator of the paranormal. Stanley has given presentations on a wide variety of subjects before diverse groups.

It is commonly believed that complex problems necessarily have complex solutions. However, as we shall see in this presentation, most if not all of society's problems do indeed have simple solutions. Finding these solutions often requires us to think outside the box of our cultural conditioning. In this presentation, we will begin by providing solutions to the problems

of unemployment, inflation, and war, and then proceed to solve some of society's more challenging problems.

--

Chuck Divine has a degree in physics, some grad work in physics, then some grad work in social psychology, became a photographer, a writer, an artist along the way. Worked for New Jersey State Government, a NASA contractor, some independents, involved in space politics since the early 1980s, more. Photographer for Princeton Ballet, Rutgers in New Jersey, Goddard Music and Drama Club and St. Mark's (both church and theater group) down here, more. From Chuck:

I am what is called a polymath – a person with several different talents. .I began my adult life by getting a degree in physics from Rutgers University. This was in 1967. Shortly thereafter I was drafted into the U.S. Army. It was a very weird two years. In some ways that series of events began shaping my life. I survived the two years in the Army because of that degree in physics and an extremely high IQ – high enough to not only get me into Mensa but also the Triple Nine Society. During my Army years my sense of humor developed. I also became a bit of a runner. For those who are curious, I spent my Army time in California, mostly doing physics research.

After the Army I spent two years at IBM, then two more years doing grad work in physics. I then decided upon a career switch – into social psychology. I spent a few years doing grad work in that field at Columbia in New York City. I returned to New Jersey and eventually moved into IT. While doing all this I also became a rather talented photographer. When I started work for New Jersey government in 1982 (steady work had a real appeal by then) I met a Mensa member by the name of Sabra Jernigan. She said I would enjoy Mensa and brought in a membership application. I quickly joined and started making a new set of friends.

While doing all this, I had also started making a mark in the art world via doing photography for the Princeton Ballet and participating in the Trenton Artists Workshop Association. I also got involved with a visionary space group known as the L5 Society. I did a number of things for L5 ranging from organizing a chapter, developing a New Jersey Spaceday, and getting a little bit involved in politics.

In 1990 I landed a job at Goddard Space Flight Center's supercomputer center. I thought I had finally arrived at a reasonably satisfactory place in life. Unfortunately, the group I joined had management that was bad even by NASA standards. I helped improve the group while I was there and made many friends at Goddard. At the same time I stayed active in the arts via Goddard's Music and Drama Club and the Maryland Federation of Art. The 1990s were mostly good, even considering the bad management.

Then life took a turn I did not expect. The bad management fired me out of Goddard in 1999. I managed to get good work with another firm and then one more firm after the first one went out of business. Still, though, life was not what I expected.

In 2003 NASA destroyed another shuttle. I gave a well received talk on problems at NASA at CNJ's Snowball a month after that disaster. They invited me back in 2004 for a follow up. That talk was even more well received. In the audience was a career NASA civil servant who praised my talk and, later that weekend, recommended I seek work in the agency. Later in 2004 I attended a Rutgers Club of DC talk by a lobbyist in which he said they did volunteer work for candidates to build relationships. Senator Barbara Mikulski – a strong supporter of NASA with a reputation for telling the truth – was running for reelection. I volunteered. I made a quite favorable impression.

In the past seven years I have gotten involved in aerospace politics with the aim of helping NASA and, indeed, tech fields in general reform. There are still many wonderful possibilities. There are also some interesting problems.

Some people are paying attention. Some are not. Some welcome me into tech circles. Some do not. I will discuss this topic in much more detail at our RG. Oh – my art is still getting lots of attention.

--

Sheri Abrams will speak on Social Security disability law.

--

Dave Remine is a 42-year member of Mensa and formerly a LocSec, RG Chair, AG Chair, RVC, national Treasurer, AMC Chairman, International Chairman, and Chair of the Hearings Committee. He is the only American to have been both American Chairman and International Chairman. He is currently a Mensa Foundation Trustee slated to become Foundation President on November 5th and MWM's 2011 RG Co-Chair. He has attended well over 300 gatherings and events nationally and internationally.

--

Win Wenger, Ph.D., has authored and published 55 books, two of them best-sellers nationally and worldwide. He has also authored two major best-seller audio courses with leading publishers. Researcher, educator and trainer, Win has pioneered in several fields: he is one of the two most productive people in the world today in creating new and better methods of learning and teaching. He is also one of the two most productive people in the world in creating new and better methods of problem-solving and for evoking creativity. His first two books, back in the 1970s, were on ways to increase human intelligence, some decades before all the research on brain plasticity made that a respectable topic for polite converse. Win has been a Mensan since the early 1960s.