

# When Words Collide

## Teaching Critical Thinking, Science, Language Arts and a Sense of Wonder

The New England Science Fiction Association (NESFA) is pleased to announce its third annual symposium on the use of science fiction literature as a dynamic teaching tool for developing critical thinking, science knowledge/appreciation, and language arts skills for students in grades 4 through 12.

These teacher workshops are open to science and language arts teachers and librarians (and other interested educators). Two "strands" of workshop will be offered: one aimed at grades 4-8; the other at grades 9-12. Workshops will feature panel discussions and presentations by professionals in education, science, and science fiction writing.

**"When Words Collide 3"** will be held on **Friday, February 16**, at the Sheraton Tara Hotel, **Framingham, Massachusetts**, from **9 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.** Boskone 38, NESFA's annual regional science fiction convention, begins at 5 p.m. that Friday and runs through Sunday afternoon. (Symposium attendees may join Boskone 38 at a special rate.) Boskone 38's Guest of Honor, award-winning author **George R.R. Martin**, will join other authors, scientists, and educators on workshop panels. **Dan Kimmel**, professional Boston-area media critic, will present the keynote address at the workshop buffet luncheon (which is included in the conference registration price).

*"When Words Collide 3"* is one part of the **Monty Wells Project**, the New England Science Fiction Association's ongoing efforts to educate and interest people in the synergy between science fact and science fiction. The Monty Wells Project is named for one of our members, a high school chemistry teacher (and amateur auto racer), whose love of education inspired his students and his friends. "When Words Collide 3" is the second program which NESFA has produced under the auspices of the Monty Wells Project. Plans for future programs include the creation of curriculum guides for teaching science, language arts and critical thinking skills through science fiction, editing and publication of text books, and additional symposia and workshops.

**Registration is \$50**, which includes luncheon, six (6) professional development points, curriculum materials and books. NESFA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) literary corporation whose mandate and mission includes education.

Enclosed is our registration form and the tentative schedule for the conference. For additional information about the seminar, please send us email at [boskone@nesfa.org](mailto:boskone@nesfa.org), phone (617) 573-8504, or drop us a note at: **Monty Wells Project, NESFA, P.O. Box 809, Framingham, MA 01701.**

## A Symposium on Learning and Science Fiction

# Schedule of events (tentative):

- 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. .... Registration (coffee provided)  
9:00 – 9:30 a.m. .... **(Introduction)** Teaching *About* vs. Teaching *With* SF  
9:30 – 10:30 a.m. .... Coping with 2010: Students, the near future, and modern SF  
10:45 – 11:45 a.m. .... **4-8** The Solar System - Facts, Fallacies, and SF  
**8-12** Learning About the Other: SF and Prejudice  
Noon – 12:30 p.m. .... Luncheon  
12:30-1 p.m. .... *Keynote Presentation* by Boston film critic **Dan Kimmel**, “SF in TV and Movies: How to use them to teach”  
1– 1:30 p.m. .... **Round Tables and short subjects**  
1:45-2:45 p.m. .... **4-8** Mythology, Folklore, and YA Fantasy: prepping for future forays into the classics  
**8-12** How Science Happens  
2:45-3:15 p.m. .... SF Music to Teach By (performance and discussion)  
3:15 –3:30 p.m. .... Closing discussion/suggestions/evaluations

**Please note:** *If you have attended When Words Collide in a previous year and would be willing to share how you have used our material in the classroom, please be sure to let us know!*

## Program Participants and Staff (tentative) include:

- Michael A. Burstein
- Nomi Burstein
- Jeff Carver
- Hal Clement
- Dr. Jack Cohen (UK)
- Bruce Coville
- Gay Ellen Dennett
- Esther Friesner
- Dr. Deb Geisler
- Paul Giguere
- Dan Kimmel
- Jeff Hecht
- George R.R. Martin
- Tamora Pierce
- Joe Rico
- Don Sakers
- Joe Siclari
- Susan Shwartz
- Ed Stauff
- Mary Ellen Wessels
- Jane Yolen

**Morning coffee and a full buffet luncheon included. Notification of registration, together with directions to our site, will be sent in late January 2001.**