



# The Rod Serling Memorial Foundation

## Newsletter - WINTER 2020



Since the mid-1980's this organization has been dedicated to honoring Rod Serling—one of the most talented and prolific writers in American television. This newsletter highlights RSMF activities, as well as the continuing interest in Rod Serling in the press... on bookshelves... DVDs... streaming services, and the internet.

## CAROL SERLING'S DEATH BRINGS ACCOLADES FROM THOSE WHO KNEW HER

Carol Serling, wife of Rod Serling, creator of "The Twilight Zone" died on Jan. 9 at her home in Pacific Palisades, Calif. — just days before her 91st birthday. She was known as a fierce defender of her late husband's work, but in the nearly half-century since his death in 1975 Carol built an impressive resume of her own. The legacy she leaves behind is evident in comments from some of those who knew her:

"I am incredibly saddened by this news. Carol was a force and beautiful spirit. She was incredibly kind and helpful to me as an honorary trustee and as I joined the IC community. I was looking forward to sharing another joyful Serling Awards ceremony with her this spring. May she rest in peace with her beloved Rod. Ithaca is so much greater because of them." Shirley M. Collano- President, Ithaca College

"I'm saddened by the news and grateful for the time I got to spend with her." Bill E'lia (Ithaca '69) - director of *Boston Legal*, *How to Get Away with Murder*, and others, and student of Rod Serling

"Indeed sad news. At the same time, I am filled with gratitude and warm memories for the privilege of knowing and being friends with both Rod and Carol. They were so kind in welcoming me to their home in the Palisades when I was a new IC graduate relocating to LA. After Rod's passing, it was always heartwarming to see and catch up with Carol. And what a blessing her contribution to IC has been through the years." Bill Froelich (Ithaca '74) - Ithaca Films and student of Rod Serling

"For those of us lucky enough to have known her, many things about Carol will be sorely missed, not the least of which is her indomitable spirit. My sincere condolences on her loss." Tony Albarella - BOD Member, RSMF, and Editor, *The Complete Twilight Zone Scripts of Rod Serling*

"I never met Mrs. Serling. As soon as my book was published, I sent her a copy along with a letter explaining that I had never contacted her because the nature of my book didn't necessitate such a conversation, and I didn't want to bother her if it was unnecessary. I described my book as a love letter to Rod Serling, and said that I hoped that she would enjoy it. She responded immediately with a very gracious letter, thanking me for the "love letter" and saying she looked forward to reading it. I cherish that letter. Rest In Peace, Mrs. Serling, and thank you." Nick Parisi - BOD Member, RSMF, and author, *Rod Serling: His Life, Work and Imagination*

"When I was in L.A. — researching an article on her late husband's script for *Planet of the Apes* — I visited Carol... and she presented me with a folder full of news articles on the project — from her personal collection. That's the kind of person she was... and this began a long association with this amazing lady. The courses I taught while on the faculty at I-C relied heavily on THE ROD SERLING ARCHIVE, which she established there. Gordon C. Webb - BOD Member, RSMF and Ass't Prof.—TV/Radio (retired), Ithaca College



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## CAROL SERLING'S DEATH (continued)

A partial list of Carol Serling's "credits" illustrates the extent of her accomplishments:

- The Twilight Zone (2019- ): Executive Producer on ten episodes of the "reboot" by Jordan Peele
- Twilight Zone: Rod Serling's Lost Classics (TV Movie-1994): Supervising Producer
- Twilight Zone: The Movie (1983): project consultant (Carol appeared as a passenger in the segment "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet")
- The Twilight Zone Magazine (1981-1989): creator and editor

Carol served as an advisor to the ROD SERLING MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, and hosted several informal gatherings at the family cottage on Cayuga Lake, near Ithaca, NY. Her dedication to her husband's work, along with her generosity and sense of humor will be greatly missed by RSMF members who knew her!

What is perhaps the greatest tribute was given by her husband in an interview in The Press of Binghamton... shortly after the premiere of "The Twilight Zone" in 1959. "Her taste is excellent," he was quoted as saying, "and she has an unerring instinct about whether my work is good or bad — except for 'Requiem for a Heavyweight.' She disliked the play because she disapproves of boxing."

This complete article, and much more about Carol Serling and "the Serling legacy" can be found below:

**THE PRESS**, Binghamton, NY: <https://www.pressconnects.com/story/news/local/2020/01/14/carol-serling-widow-twilight-zone-creator-rod-serling-has-died/4463698002/>

**NEW YORK TIMES**: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/23/arts/television/carol-serling-dead.html>

**I-C NEWS** (Ithaca College): <https://www.ithaca.edu/news/sad-news-passing-longtime-ithaca-college-friend-carol-serling>

**HOLLYWOOD REPORTER**: <https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/carol-serling-dead-wife-twilight-zone-legend-rod-serling-was-91-1269950>

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## MY MOM

by Jodi Serling

My mom was a lady of steel who carried on bravely and alone for the next 45 years after losing my father. How did she do it? I have no idea because I couldn't have done it and it is hard to imagine how she did. But, my mom did. Mom carried on for 4 1/2 decades. It is somewhat understandable, though because "guys" like my dad are not easily replaceable.

My mother assumed the matriarchal throne of loving, guiding and caring for a shattered family, shocked to the bone and tattered by grief and pre-mature loss and somehow kept it all intact. For awhile, anyway.

My mom was the wind beneath the wings of my father, just as she was that wind for me. She also had wings of her own. Sturdy, pretty wings.... that spread wide and strong and could lift her in flight when she needed.

Time will always remember the life and work of my dad, but may overlook, as history often does, the importance of the "woman behind the man." My mom was not that. She was the woman next to her man, not behind... the one who supported my Dad when needed, propped him up when he was knocked down by early rejection and made my dad possible.

My mom was my friend and my guardian angel. She taught me life lessons, and nurtured me and helped me become a better person. She was the most wonderful mother anyone could ask for... as I have said, THE true matriarch of our family. She respected and protected my dad's legacy and upheld it to the highest standards and let it blossom. My mother exuded radiance beyond words. There was an innocence to her that illuminated everything she did. She was strong and brilliant, and withstood so many of life's hardships. She touched so many lives and for all that knew her — they became enriched by her friendship and love. I say to you, Mom — you go peacefully now... no more pain, no more hurt and anguish... no one can hurt you anymore... you can join dad now and hold his hand forever. He has been waiting for you. There will never be a day that memories of you won't flow through my mind and I will miss you more than tongue can tell.

This is a quote from Margaret Sanger- that I wanted to share with all of you. "The memories that are closest to my heart are the small gentle ones that have carried over from my childhood. They are not profound but they have stayed with me through life and when I am very old, they will still be near."





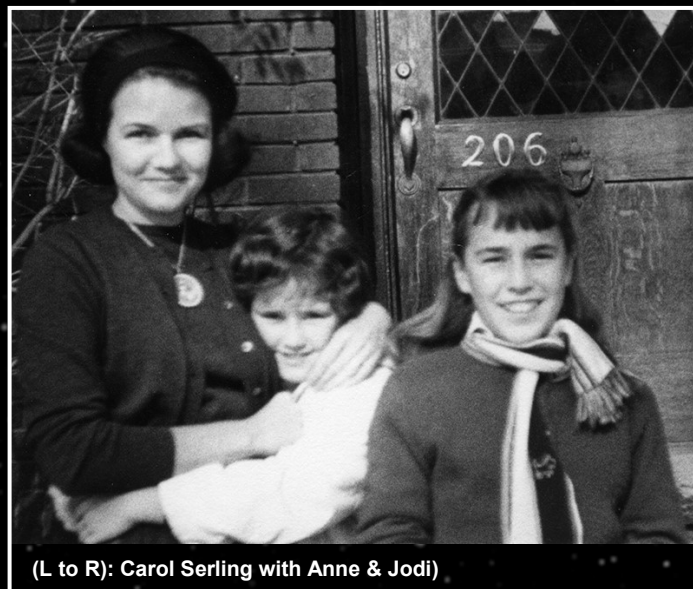
## MOM AND ME

by Anne Serling

In a crowded field of tributes, I think it most fitting to share this poem my mother gave my sister and me:

Do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there. I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry;  
I am not there. I did not die.

~Mary Elizabeth Frye



(L to R): Carol Serling with Anne & Jodi)



## REMEMBERING CAROL SERLING

by Tony Albarella

Carol Serling's legacy as a staunch promoter and protector of her husband's work is well known; her tenacity in that role was obvious and the results of her dedication are demonstrable. Rather than amplify that aspect of her legacy, I'd like to mark Carol's passing by sharing a few cursory, more intimate memories I have, quick glimpses that only scratch the surface of the life of this remarkable person. I can only lay claim to having known Carol in a peripheral way and for a relatively short period of her time with us, but even that limited experience gifted me with insight into who she was and why she should be remembered.

While I had communicated sporadically with Carol by phone and email prior to working with her on the book series [As Timeless as Infinity: The Complete Twilight Zone Scripts of Rod Serling](#) (ATAI), I first met her in the summer of 2002, when my family and I paid a visit to Carol's summer home on Cayuga Lake in Interlaken, NY. I was impressed at the time with how warmly we were received. As editor of the ATAI project, I did spend some time "talking shop" with Carol and swapping material, but I, my wife, and my two young daughters were received as friends, and Carol spent the majority of the day entertaining us.

From then on, the visit to the lake house became an annual event, highly anticipated by my family and continuing well beyond the completion of the 11-year ATAI production odyssey. My girls were only toddlers when we first starting visiting, and Carol took to them immediately. I distinctly remember that during one visit, as the kids splashed around the water's edge with Carol watching from the deck, her face held a look of such pleasure mixed with melancholy that I realized her own memories of her young girls down at the lake were surely being stirred.

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## REMEMBERING CAROL... (continued)

Often our Interlaken pilgrimages would be capped by a boat ride, enjoying relaxing conversation with good friends Jodi Serling and her husband, "Captain Mike," or laughing as the kids wiped out while water tubing off the boat. I occasionally offered to take our hosts to a restaurant downtown to save them the trouble of repeatedly entertaining us, but Carol would never accept, preferring instead to remain by the lake and enjoy simple lunches of salads, hamburgers, and hot dogs that we cooked outside on the BBQ grill. It was obvious that despite her exposure to it, the pretentiousness of the Hollywood set never took root in Carol. She was wise, of course, in making the lake house our home base; her family and mine always spent our annual visit relaxing without distractions in the living room or out on the deck, swapping stories, watching eagles nest in the trees, enjoying a meal and the lake and the simple act of catching up with friends.

Some years, our visits were enlivened with the company of other guests, such as Carol's warm and friendly sister Didi, the board members of the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation, or a visit from Rod's brother Bob and his wife Patty. On more than one occasion the unpredictable Ithaca weather restricted us to indoor activities, which often included the placement of pieces in whatever puzzle Carol was working on at the time. She loved her puzzles, and hooked us on this simple but social family activity. Over the years, Carol was always eager to hear the updates in our lives, and as a practiced mom she expertly engaged the girls in conversation. Whether indulging the disjointed rant of a 7-year-old or drawing out a politely quiet teenager, she knew how to make my children feel comfortable and welcome at every stage of their lives.

Carol and I did, of course, get together in other places; we attended Serling conferences and other activities in Ithaca, and several events or engagements in Binghamton. One glorious weekend was spent celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *The Twilight Zone* in Ithaca and Binghamton with various events, including a live television broadcast of two reenacted Serling scripts at TV station WSKG, attended by the whole Serling family and many friends from the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation. But I'll always associate Carol with all those years of summer visits to the lake house. I know my family will still visit with Jodi and Michael and greatly enjoy those outings, but without Carol in attendance, the dynamic will never be quite the same again.

Carol Serling is remembered for her many roles in public life: the wife and life partner to famed writer Rod Serling; the hub of the Serling family in the wake of Rod's untimely passing; the guardian and chief curator of Rod's body of work; a patron of the arts; a dedicated volunteer. These roles do define and honor her. But her greatest legacy, I feel, lies in the people she touched and the lives she improved in her most natural, non-public, multifaceted role: that of simply being Carol Serling.

## RSMF ARCHIVES

by Andy Polak

### Rod Serling's Official Embosser for Interlaken Productions

This embosser was donated to our archives by Carol Serling. Interlaken Productions was created when Cayuga Productions ("The Twilight Zone") was dissolved.

Interlaken Productions was Rod's company that produced his western series "The Loner" that ran for one season, 1965-66. Cayuga Productions was named after Cayuga Lake where the Serling family summer home is located. Interlaken Productions was named after the town where the home is located. Interlaken is also the site of Rod's grave.

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\*\*\* I will mail out the example stationery page with the embossed image to the first person who contacts me at: [pr@rodserling.com](mailto:pr@rodserling.com)!

*In each issue of the newsletter I like to highlight an item we have in our archive of the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation that we hope to some day have on display at a museum dedicated to his life and work.*



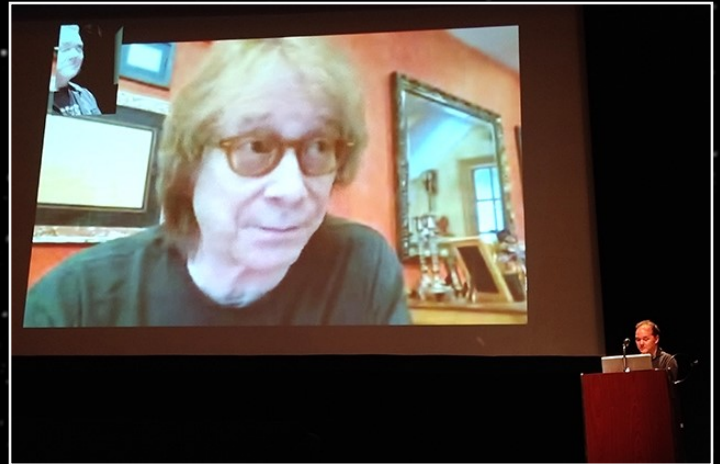


# SERLINGFEST 2019—THE TWZ @60



RSMF staged its fourth consecutive Rod Serling event on October 4-6, 2019 in the writer's hometown — Binghamton, NY.

Fans from the Binghamton area and, literally, around the world came to celebrate the 60th anniversary of *The Twilight Zone* — the local celebrity's well known TV series.



But the three-day event also highlighted other aspects of Serling's work, including a live dramatic reading of an unproduced Serling script... a live podcast... multi-media presentations... book-signing events... screenings and a special, live online discussion with actor and TWZ star Bill Mummy (right).

Another unique feature of the event was the first Official "TWILIGHT ZONE AWARDS" — with winners revealed "Oscar-style" — at the end of the event (more than 300 people from around the country voted for their favorites):

As chosen by the fans, and announced during

## SERLINGFEST 2019 THE TWZ@60

Following are the winners of the first official  
**TWILIGHT ZONE** Awards:

<b>BEST ACTOR:</b> Burgess Meredith ("Time Enough at Last")	<b>BEST ACTRESS:</b> Agnes Moorehead ("The Invaders")
<b>BEST OPENING NARRATION:</b> "A Stop at Willoughby"	<b>BEST CLOSING NARRATION:</b> "The Monsters are Due on Maple Street"
<b>BEST DIRECTOR:</b> Douglas Heyes ("Eye of the Beholder")	<b>BEST ALIEN/MONSTER:</b> Talky Tina
	<b>BEST SERIES OPENING:</b> Season One
<b>BEST EPISODE: "Walking Distance"</b>	

Thanks to everyone who voted! See you next year at SerlingFest 2020!

For a visual tour of all that SERLINGFEST 2019 had to offer — check out the photo gallery elsewhere in this Newsletter.



# Six Decades Later, TV's *The Twilight Zone* Soars to the Silver Screen

by Tony Albarella

In business since 2002, Fathom Events is known for hosting a wide spectrum of entertainment properties, including live and pre-recorded concerts, sports, comedy acts, and original programming. These events are presented in select movie theaters for limited, often one-time runs. In recent years, Fathom has migrated more heavily into anniversary screenings of classic and/or culturally important motion pictures. Classic films are typically restored and presented along with supplemental content, such as interviews with cast and crew.

Partnering with AMC, Cinemark, and Regal theaters, Fathom Events has developed this formula into a cottage industry. Ironically, the demographic they are most apt to attract – the film buff – is also the consumer most likely to own a home theater system and have access to a deep library of favorite films on physical media or via streaming services. So why do people flock to a theater to lay out cash for a screening of a film they can watch anytime in the comfort of their own home? As Fathom Events has discovered, the answer lies primarily in the act of experiencing a film along with an audience of strangers and as a shared social event.

I've been to several Fathom Event screenings and have personally experienced this dynamic. As a *Star Trek* fan since childhood, I happily attended two anniversary screenings of *Trek* films in recent years. In 2017, *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan* was given a 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary release, and last year *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I was ten years old when the latter debuted and seeing the first big-budget, updated adventure of my beloved Enterprise crew was a formative experience. At last year's Fathom Events screening, I met a man who was thirteen in 1979 and equally enamored of his memories of the movie's initial release. This stranger and I reminisced and thoroughly enjoyed reliving our experience four decades later.

Therein lies the power of the recorded image, and fills in another aspect of Fathom's success: nostalgia. It's a dynamic in which Rod Serling often trafficked, and nostalgia came full circle on November 14, 2019, when Fathom presented the one-night-only event *The Twilight Zone: A 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*. This screening combined digitally restored versions of six quintessential *Twilight Zone* episodes ("Walking Distance," "Time Enough at Last," "The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street," "To Serve Man," "The Invaders," and "Eye of the Beholder") with an all-new documentary on the show's creator and driving force, Mr. Serling himself.

I attended the screening with my wife and two daughters at a theater in Hazlet, NJ. Given the audience reading this missive, there's no need to critique the featured episodes or debate Fathom's top TZ picks. Rather, I'll simply share a few observations on the event itself.

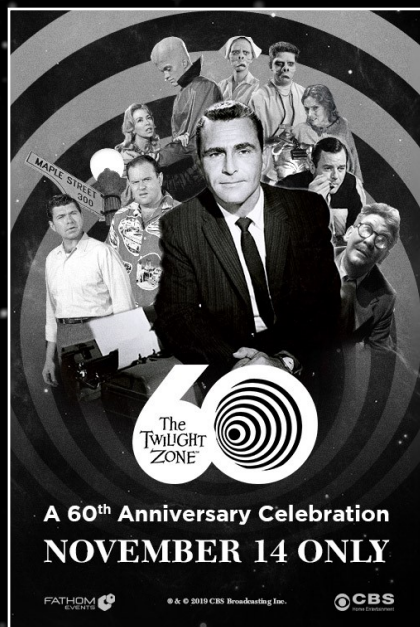
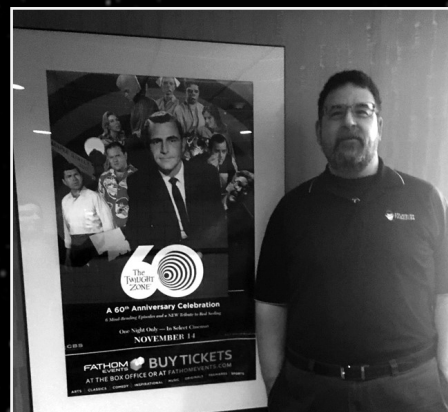
The theater was not sold out but the room did contain over fifty patrons. Taking into account current movie prices, the wealth of entertainment options, and the fact that the evening's fare didn't have Star Wars or a Marvel superhero in the title (and debuted during the Eisenhower era), the attendance was fairly impressive. I knew that my friend Nick Parisi was attending a showing in Long Island, and another friend, Paul Giammarco, texted me just before the show from his home state of Rhode Island to report on the screening he was attending. Our social networking

lent an air of expansion to the proceedings, a confirmation that my group's live screening was being repeated simultaneously for other groups in other places.

This event had a different feel for me than the previous Fathom screenings I'd attended. *The Twilight Zone* was a television series and was never experienced in theaters; unlike the *Star Trek* movie screenings, there was for me no Martin Sloan-like internal revisit of the child staring up in awe at an impossibly large screen, cheering fictional heroes engaged in a brand-new story. *The Twilight Zone* has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember, but those layered memories are more intimate. TZ teleplays are smaller-scale dramas to begin with, and my personal exposure to them took place on small, flickering screens and without an audience.

Rather than a callback to the past, this big-screen TZ airing provided a new experience and a future memory: enjoying these beloved classics with an audience in a group setting. I'm sure some of the attendees were as familiar with these episodes as I, but collectively we watched them through a new, public prism. At many of the twist-ending

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## Six Decades Later... (continued)

reveals there were grunts of approval, spasms of light applause, even chuckles of delight at the joy of having been entertained. I doubt anyone who attended was new to the plot points, but we were not remarking on being surprised by these long-ago-shocking moments; we were simply enjoying them anew with a group of strangers.

The only new content was the half-hour documentary "Remembering Rod Serling," which aired in the wake of the episodes and was a perfect cap to the festivities. It featured heartfelt recollections by family and friends and focused more on Serling as a father, a friend, and an everyday man who was inclusive, outgoing, outspoken, and socially conscientious in every aspect of his life. It also featured footage of Serling holding court at an Ithaca College writing course, filmed shortly before his death in 1975. This is familiar material to those of us steeped in his career, but probably new to many of the members of the Fathom screening audience. I loved the inclusion of this as it highlighted the knowledge, passion, and articulacy of the man who many know only as "the *Twilight Zone* guy."

The medium of television is typically outside Fathom Events' purview, but this series was a purposeful exception. "The *Twilight Zone* has inspired many filmmakers and storytellers," noted Fathom CEO Ray Nutt, "so it is a great honor to be able to bring these classic stories to the big screen, and to offer such an incisive look into the mind of the man who created them." The presentation of this anniversary screening, and the care and reverence with which the show was treated, is a testament to *The Twilight Zone*'s enduring quality and cultural relevance.

[\(CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE FATHOM EVENTS ONLINE PROMO\)](#)

## THE ROD SERLING SCRIPTWRITING COMPETITION

**2020 Awards—sponsored by Ithaca College**

If you have an idea for a "Serling-esque" script — here's your chance. But, don't wait too long... the deadline is short this year:

### Eligibility

The script competition is open to non produced, or non-optioned writers only. Any applicant who has earned money or other consideration as a screenwriter for theatrical films or television, or as a playwright for the legitimate theatre, or for the sale of, or sale of an option to, any original story, treatment, screenplay, play, or teleplay will not be eligible for the competition.

### Deadline

All entries must be postmarked or received via email by **Wednesday, March 11, 2020**. A panel of industry professionals will read the top five finalists.

- First Place: \$250
- Second Place: \$150
- Third Place: \$100

Finalists will be notified and their names will be posted on the Serling website. Winners will be notified by April 1, 2020.

**FULL DETAILS:** <https://www.ithaca.edu/academics/roy-h-park-school-communications/programs-events-and-initiatives/rod-serling-award/serling-scriptwriting-competition>



# Navigating Our New Website

by Steve Schlich

In early 2019, we won a website redesign and rebranding in a contest (thanks, advisor Jackie Stapleton!). You, our passionate supporters, voted in the contest, and got us the win. Thank you!

Our webmaster (me) had added pages “on the fly” for twenty years, and it was messy. No longer! Binghamton web designers [Idea-Kraft](#) did a professional job based on our wishes, with fantastic—and scalable—results. The site is finally readable on desktop, laptop and hand-held! We went live on June 7, 2019, and I’ve been recreating old pages (and adding new ones) ever since.

The home page is a giant visual menu, including a “slider” at front-and-center that rotates the current top news items. Cool! Every internal menu—those under NEWS and MEDIA—now attaches a photo to most stories, for more interesting browsing.

And no matter where you go, our header at the top of every page holds these menus...

- ABOUT US lists officers, members, activities, and goals.
- JOIN US shows you how to join and donate to preserving Rod Serling’s Legacy.
- NEWS has the most submenus and the most frequent updates: Articles, Reference, Rod Speaks Out, and Speak Your Mind (your chance to be heard), to list a few.
- MEDIA offers numerous collections for your perusal: art, recordings, books, photos, video, more. You can become joyfully lost here!
- AWARDS, FAQs and CONTACT lead to single pages that contain what their titles suggest.
- Click the MAGNIFYING GLASS at the far right to search.



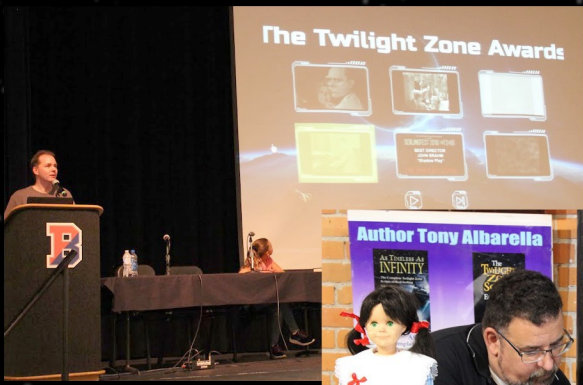
**SEARCH TIP:** If your Google or Bing search fails to find that old page you liked so much, search directly from our home page. Page names have changed, and their search ‘bots haven’t remapped ours completely yet.

**COMMENTS:** We wanted to allow Comments on articles. Sad to report that over seven months, we got two good comments vs. hundreds of sex aid drug ads and generic comments containing malicious links. So that experiment is over. <sigh> But you can still speak to us—and to your fellow readers—by selecting the NEWS > SPEAK YOUR MIND menus. Please write to us!

As ever, the site will change as needs arise. If you’ve got an idea or an obsession, write to us! Maybe we can build a page that meets that need.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Steve has been at the helm as our Webmaster since the beginning... and has made [www.rodserling.com](http://www.rodserling.com) one of the premiere sources of information on “all-things-Serling.” Making it fit all modern platforms and screen sizes is no easy task, but Steve pulled it off seamlessly and, as always, like a true professional!





## SERLINGFEST 2019 - IN PICTURES





# R.S.M.F. PROFILE

## Amy Boyle Johnston—Member, Board of Directors

Board member Amy Boyle Johnston, originally from Santa Cruz, CA, is a writer and artist based in Rochester, NY. She has presented at all but the first Rod Serling Conferences at Ithaca College; her research includes the three Serling Archives (Ithaca College, University of Wisconsin and the Bundy Museum in Binghamton, NY)... and more than twenty 20 other collections of Serling's work.

Amy has one of the largest private collections of works written by Serling. She has conducted more than 60 interviews including Rod's fellow soldiers of the 511th... some of Serling's professors when he attended Antioch College and even Ray Bradbury — conducted in his home.

She has been published in The New York Times, The Philadelphia Inquirer and LA Weekly.

Amy has an undergraduate degree in history and an MFA in Visual Studies. Currently, she is a year long artist-in-residence at Flower City Arts in Rochester.



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Amy is the author of [UNKNOWN SERLING: An Episodic History](#).

This book is painstakingly researched, well-written and respectful of Rod Serling and his legacy. The first portion is out as an e-book: *The Bradbury, Kennedy, Pentagon and WWII stories*. It's excellent, inexpensive, and available at Amazon in paperback...for their Kindle reader, or for the free Kindle reader app on IOS, Android, Mac and PC. AND... listen to the [radio interview of author Amy Boyle Johnston](#) on WXXI, Rochester, NY.

**GOT QUESTIONS?** This distinguished organization is ALL about Rod Serling... so if there's something you've always wondered about...or have questions about an obscure Serling work — just [send us an e-mail...](#)

(GordonWebb@rodserling.com) and one of our resident "experts" will try to fulfill your request in a future newsletter.

## Attention: AMAZON SHOPPERS

If you have an Amazon.com account — a portion of every purchase made can be donated to the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation through:

[smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

Like us on Facebook



*The caricature of Rod Serling on our masthead is by the late Johnny Hart — internationally-known cartoonist ("B.C." and "The Wizard of Id")...another creative genius who called the Binghamton area "home."*

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