

# Confessions of a Con Chairperson

from Deb

Oh, where to start.

It is an honor to be a part of this fandom and while it is SOOOO much work to host a convention, it is also an honor. I want you to know I have done my best to make this a wonderful convention for each of you. I have probably forgotten so many things; maybe they will come back to me before the convention, maybe not. While I know there will be imperfections, bloopers, and glitches, the main idea is that we are together. Our tunnel family only physically comes together in the US once a year, and we always make the best of it. There is nothing like the REAL hugs you will get, the laughter and tears you will share, and the memories you will make. There is nothing like remembering LOVE and continuing the DREAM with and for each other.

As always, I want to thank all of those that came before me, those that started these conventions and continued them until I could get here. I believe we are unlike all other fan-based fandoms. We are a family of choice. And during these few days out of the year, we gather together to embrace each other and to embrace the dream, the dream of our beloved series, but also the dream that is *US*. I think one of our own says it best in her essay on Batbland:

*“It’s not B&B that we are obsessed with. We are obsessed with the beauty of our own souls, and B&B is a mirror to such obsession, where we recognize ourselves. We are the Beauty, we are the Beast: we have all of Vincent’s and Catherine’s qualities, we need to grow, to shine, to be loved and to love no matter what. We have an Above and we have a Below, we are made of darkness and of light. We dream and need to become One. We need and dream to give and to receive. We need to see beyond the look, and we need to be seen beyond our looks. We need to see and be seen with the eyes of the heart. When we meet B&B, we meet the tale of such need fulfilled, and we recognize it.”*

If you haven’t read this wonderful essay written by a beautiful fan of Beauty and the Beast, please do. Here is the link, I think it says it all:

<http://www.batbland.com/dream/ouad/DreamingTheDream.htm>

So, it is my hope that through these few days, you will enjoy our time together, you will dream the dream, give and receive and see with the eyes of your heart. Through our recent loss of some of our beloved family members, we have learned to enjoy one another, give hugs and kisses. Really BE with each other, hold these memories close to our hearts and carry those wonderful memories with us until we meet again.

This convention would never have happened without each and every one, both here and those at home, who contributed however they could, even though they couldn't physically be with us.. I know the sacrifices you make to be here and I am humbled by it. Believe me, your effort just to get here is so appreciated. And if you want to thank those that make these conventions possible, please do your best to make them continue. Each and every one of you has something inside you that you can contribute. There are those out there, like we all were at one time, looking for the dream, and don't know that the dream continues here. So, continue this wonderful tradition that we have, not only for those yet to come, but for those that are now gone from this physical world, those that continued on until we all could get here. When we, too, are gone, it is my hope that those who are yet to come, become the leaders and continue to dream the dream and remember love. For those future leaders yet to come, please know even those of us who have passed to the spiritual realm will still be dreaming the dream with you.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to all of you that donated in any way to this convention and/or the convention charities – and there were so many of you.

Without the donation of your time, your talents, and your funds, this convention could never have happened.

Thank you to all who donated anything to the Tunnel Comfort Totes – and there were so many of you. I never thought I would get such a response to an email requesting everyone bring a single cup.

Thank you, not only from me, but from the families who will have their hopes and dreams come crashing down. Your donation will be there to let them know someone was thinking of them even before their loss.

Thanks also to:

J'Ecris - Con web pages  
Joyce Elliot - Fandom business cards

The Sunday chat group for their ideas and inspiration  
Peggy Garvin - Vincent Cloak  
Chesapeake Helpers Society of Beauty and the Beast - Banquet Candles  
Rosemarie S.- Con tote bags  
Anonymous donor - Share the Light mugs  
Judy Loyd and her team - Beast Bingo, Con items  
Sandy Tew - Banquet centerpieces  
Joann and Larry Baca - Dealer room  
Sandy Tew and Cathy Moran - Art room  
Suze Howe - Computer/art skills

**Panels**

Karen Quattlebaum  
Beverly Chick  
Peggy Garvin  
Sandy Tew  
Chesapeake Helpers Society of Beauty and the Beast  
The Everything Girls  
Janet Rivenbark  
Winterrose

And to any of you that I have forgotten, please know you are appreciated and thank you so much not only for your contributions, but your forgiveness of the forgetfulness of an old woman.

I know so many have offered to help with set up and take down and believe me, I plan on taking you all up on it. So ahead of time, thank you.

And to JoAnn Baca, what can I say. You are the wind beneath my wings ...  
Your knowledge, expertise, and donations have been invaluable.  
Thank you just isn't enough, but thank you so much.

Deb