

Helmuth, Speaking for **BOSKONE**

Saturday pm 18 February 2017 Volume 54, Number 3

Welcome to Boskone 54

SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIALS

Here's what's coming for Saturday night; see your Pocket program for details.

6.30 pm—Boskone Book Party in the Galleria

7.30 pm—Boskone Memorial Toast in the Galleria

8.30 pm—Boskone 54 Awards Ceremony in Harbor II & III (Gaughan Award, Skylark, Short Story contest)

9.00 pm—*The Play's the Thing!* In Harbor II & III

The Play's the Thing - an Abridged Version of Ian Doescher's *The Empire Striketh Back*.

We'll be doing a dramatic reading of *The Empire Striketh Back* in Harbor II & III at 9pm. The reading should conclude around 10:30pm depending on the amount of ad-libbing from the cast and applause from the audience. Starring Jane Yolen as Princess Leia Organa, Bruce Coville as Luke Skywalker, David G. Grubbs as Darth Vader, The Fabulous Lorraine as Han Solo, Lojo Russo as Chewbacca (and others), John Chu as Yoda (and others), Bob Kuhn as Lando Calrissian (and others), Darlene Marshall as C-3P0 (and others) and Laurie Mann as R2-D2 (and others). Abridged and directed by Laurie Mann.

ART SHOW

Check out 100 Years of Black & White Artwork, curated by the wonderful Joe Siclari and Edie Stern. We are also pleased to have on display the interior and cover scratch board illustrations from *The Golden Key*, written by George MacDonald. Illustrated by Ruth Sanderson (she is selling copies of the book in the Dealer's Room), it is located opposite the Art Show Desk, where you can also obtain a Bidder number to bid on all the spectacular art in the Art Show. Bid early, bid often (bidding closes at noon on Sunday). Please remember to vote for the Popular Choice Best of Show Award (voting closes at 9:00 PM tonight). Ballots available at the Art Show Desk.

ART SHOW BIDDING CLOSSES AT NOON SUNDAY

QUICK SALE PICKUP AND SALES AT 1PM SUNDAY

NAME THAT CREATURE!

As you are aware, the escalators in the Westin are singing a cheerful song. But we at Boskone are baffled. None of us have been able to identify the creature which the elevators are emulating.

Therefore, we have decided to crowdsource the answer. Please write a paragraph which

names the creature (terrestrial, ET, or fantastic) and tells us a bit about its habits and habitat. Then email your proposal to escalator@smofs.com by 8pm Saturday. The winning submission will be printed in Sunday's *Helmuth* and will receive the printed NESFA book of their choice as a prize.

Thank you for your help!

Escalator Warning

Safety warning: people wearing long dresses, robes, capes, etc. please take care to keep them clear of the escalator steps. We have already had one dress get caught and it needed to be ripped to get it loose.

NESFA PRESS

Our latest—the seventh—Poul Anderson collection, *Question and Answer*, is now here at the NESFA Sales table in the Dealer's Room. This was made possible by the heroic efforts of Rick Kovalcik. Three (and more) cheers for him.

There have been two other NESFA Press books printed since Boskone 53—*The Halcyon Fairy Book* by Ursula Vernon who was Guest of Honor at Arisia 2017 and *Making Conversation* by Teresa Nielsen Hayden for MidAmeriCon II where she was one of the Guests of Honor. These are available at the NESFA Press table in the Dealer's Room.

PARTIES

Saturday: Jean Berman's Birthday Party & John Costello Memorial Party. Saturday 7pm to 1am in Room 423. Food, Friends, Fun. Sweets, savories, hot & cold drinkables, lots of chocolate—including homemade fudge, and foods to appeal to many different tastes including special diets. Check it out on the party floor.

For more parties check the gridwall in the elevator lobby on the 4th floor.

FRIDAY NIGHT RECEPTION

The theme of the reception food was desserts. All manner of pastries, cakes, and pies were provided. As expected, hordes of hungry fans descended upon the food. At the end, two brownies were left—how did you guys miss them. Kudos to Gay Ellen Dennett (and her minion Robert Luoma) for the planning and execution. A huge thank you to Chip Hitchcock for cake slicing and dicing.

SMOFCON 35--BOSTON

December 1-3, 2017

Join other con runners for a weekend of workshops, panels, stories and...dare we say...smoffing at the Hilton Back Bay in downtown Boston. Memberships are \$50 until February 28; higher thereafter. Buy memberships down at the MCFI fan table by the escalator on the Galleria level or through the Website at smofcon35.org.

BOSKONE 55

Memberships in Boskone 55 can be purchased at the NESFA Sales table in the Dealer's Room. Confirmed guests now are Mary Robinette Kowal (Guest of Honor) and Craig Miller (Special Guest). Boskone 55 will be held 16-18 February 2018 at the Westin Waterfront in Boston.

REGISTRATION

As of 4.45 pm Saturday

Warm bodies 1213
No shows 300
Members 1514
Preregistered 1119
At-the-door 394