

## HELMUTH: The Boskone Newsletter

Special edition for past and current Boskone members.

Vol 55, Issue 1

Thursday

December 21, 2017



### GET READY FOR BOSKONE

Boskone is coming! From author panels to games, astronauts, Lego robots, and dancing, Boskone is a weekend of wonder, magic, and whimsy!

#### FREE FRIDAY PROGRAMMING (2:00-6:00 pm)

Programming starts at 2:00 pm on Friday, February 16, 2018 and is free/open to the public until 6:00 pm. Memberships are needed after 6:00 pm on Friday and throughout the rest of the convention.

### Give the gift of Boskone!

Have a friend or family member who may enjoy Boskone? Why not give the gift of Boskone? Or treat yourself with a membership to New England's longest running science fiction and fantasy convention!



This year's convention features more than 150 program participants. Over 350 program items. Check out our signature events and a sneak peak at a few panels and our special art show exhibit...listed below!

[Visit the Boskone 55 website](#)

### SIGNATURE EVENTS

Boskone's signature events celebrate the best of what Boskone has to offer and are open to all of our members.

**Boskone Reception & Meet the Guests:** Join us on Friday Evening in the Galleria for a social mixer and your chance to meet Boskone's Guests and program participants. This year's guests include:

- **Guest of Honor:** Mary Robinette Kowal
- **Official Artists:** Marianne Plumridge

**Are you a member? Can't remember?**

Search our database now.

**Membership Search!**

**REGISTER FOR BOSKONE!**



#### Full Weekend Rates:

[Adult:](#) \$55

[College Student:](#) \$35

[Student Grades K-6:](#) \$25

[Student Grades 7-12:](#) \$25

*(rates good through 1/16/18)*

#### One Day Rates:

See Boskone's website for available daily rates.

**Register Today!**

**FOLLOW US ONLINE!**

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

- **Special Guests:** Craig Miller
- **Young Adult Fiction Guest:** Tamora Pierce
- **Hal Clement Science Speaker:** Catherine Asaro
- **NESFA Guest:** Nat Segaloff

The reception will also feature live music and a cash bar. **(Friday)**

**Regency Dance:** Join our Guest of Honor Mary Robinette Kowal as Boskone travels back in time to the Regency period when dancing was all the craze. You don't know the steps for Regency Dancing? Never fear! Antonia Pugliese is here from [Commonwealth Vintage Dancers](#) (a Boston area non-profit organization that reconstructs, performs, and teaches dances of the 19th and early 20th century) and will lead us through Boskone's special set of Regency dances and teach you the steps you need to know.



Costumes are encouraged, but not required. So, put on your 19th Century duds or keep your modern wardrobe to represent your favorite era as we join together to dance Regency-style at Boskone! **(Friday)**

**Jordin Kare Memorial Concert:** In honor of Boskone's longtime friend and filker Jordin Kare, we are hosting a concert in his memory. Join Boskone's filkers as they come together to sing and play the music he loved. **(Friday)**

**Boskone Book Party:** The Boskone Book Party continues with more fun, more books, and more author's who have new books at Boskone! Join the party, buy books, pick up some swag, and have a fantastic time meeting Boskone's authors who have new books coming out, including: Jane Yolen, James Patrick Kelly, E.C. Ambrose, Robert V.S. Redick, Christopher Panicia, Kenneth Rogers, Jr., Walter Hunt, and more! NESFA Press will also celebrate the release of its newest book *A Lit Fuse* by Nat Segaloff. (That's code talk for "there will be cake!")

Authors & Publishers: If you are interested in joining the Book Party to share your new book, please contact Erin Underwood at [Program@boskone.org](mailto:Program@boskone.org) **(Saturday)**

**Boskone Rapid-Fire Theater and NESFA Awards Ceremony:** Saturday Night's presentation is a fast-paced theatrical extravaganza, featuring a set of mini-shows that resemble live-action podcasts (akin to a science fiction variety show with a short awards ceremony, a feature interview, a hilarious game show, and an original radio show with aliens). This special Saturday night program has something for every fan. Hosted by Boskone's very own David G. Grubbs. **(Saturday)**

**Lego Robots are Coming!!!!:** Watch out! The Lego Robots of Doom are on their way to Boskone! Okay, they're not really going to destroy the convention....we hope.

[Boskone Blog](#)

[LiveJournal](#)

[Twitpic](#)

[Flickr](#)

Use hashtag [#boskone](#) when tweeting.

## IMPORTANT LINKS

[Boskone Website](#)

[Buy A Membership](#)

[Program/Schedule](#)

[Hotel: Westin Waterfront](#)

[Convention Hours](#)

## NEW BOOKS from NESFA PRESS

**Available at Boskone!**



However, we are going to have some very cool Lego Robots for you to have fun with on Sunday, February 18, 2018, courtesy of Hatch Makerspace who will be bringing their bots to Boskone.



Have you ever wanted to build a robotic arm? A remote controlled racer? A mechanical monster of doom? Here's your chance! Using Lego NXT kits, build the project of your dreams. This event is designed for members from ages 10 to adult. **(Saturday)**

... and much, much more!

[View Boskone 55's Hours & Events.](#)

**GET YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!**



**Full Weekend Rates:**

- [Adult](#): \$55
- [College Student](#): \$35
- [Student Grades K-6](#): \$25
- [Student Grades 7-12](#): \$25

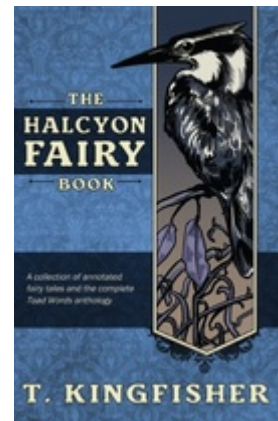
*(rates good through 1/16/18)*

If you think you purchased a membership, but can't remember, please check our [Membership Search page](#).

**PROGRAM SNEAK PEEK!**

Boskone features an acclaimed program that covers a wide variety of fan favorites.

- Art / Demos / Art Show
- Autographing
- Children's Programming
- Comics / Manga
- Dealers Room
- Filk (Music)
- Film / Anime
- Gaming
- Kaffeeklatsches / Discussion Groups
- Panels / Presentations
- Science / Technology



**BOOKS FROM  
NESFA PRESS**  
*Available Online!*



- Science Fiction / Fantasy / Horror / Mystery
- Writing / Publishing / Editing
- Young Adult Fiction
- ...and more!

With nearly 350 items to choose from, Boskone 55 is one of this year's "must see" events for Boston area fans. **The full program schedule will be released in mid January.** In the meantime, here are a few highlights:

### **Open Mic: Myths & Legends!**

Live from Boskone ... we bring you a special selection of myths and legends as told by our program participants and audience members. They share their open mic skills in the third annual Boskone Open Mic, which this year features the myths and legends of yesterday, today, and tomorrow! Each person gives his/her best 5-minute legendary performance — story, poem, song, skit, interpretive dance, or whatever!

### **Als and the Female Image**

Reflecting the latest technology, we have seen a rise in AI creations wearing mechanical bodies. Let's break down the many representations of AIs made into female image from gorgeous, sexually attractive beings to strong, powerful, and intelligent "people." Can they be both? How do these fictional female AIs represent women either metaphorically or realistically? How has their representation changed overtime? And, does the representation of male AIs differ from their "female" counterparts?

### **Interstellar Travel - Separating the Reality from the Fiction**

Traveling to the stars will be difficult and require engineering on a scale unimaginable today - but the laws of nature say that it can be done. In this talk, Les Johnson describes the distances involved, the propulsion systems that will and won't work for getting us or our robotic probes to another star, and the status of research toward making interstellar travel possible. Note - Only technologies based on real physics will be described!

### **Classic Dungeons & Dragons Game**

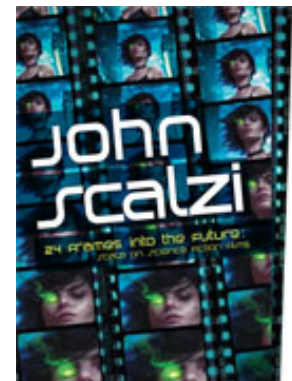
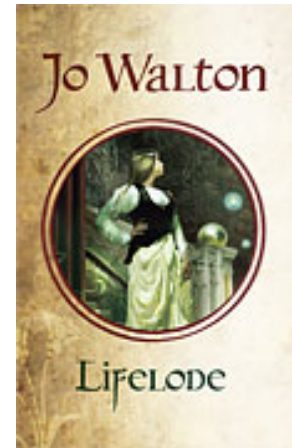
Game on! Author James Cambias leads a classic game of Dungeons & Dragons as Boskone 55's Dungeon Master!

### **The Future of Medicine**

Medical advances are growing by leaps and bounds. What's new? How will AI help us with making new discoveries? What about those pesky nanites? Our panelists share their favorite new developments in medicine and medical technology. How might SF authors inspire change and new developments in the future?

### **Star Wars and the Return of the Last Jedi**

We are now two films into the final trilogy. We have lost some of our heroes and yet the story continues. Looking back over the entire collection of films, where do we see the story going? Can the series survive beyond the original story begun by Luke, Leia, and Han? If so, whose story do we want to see next? What will we miss most once the franchise wraps up?



Visit the [NESFA Press web site](#) to view our full selection of books.

### **A Case for Space**

Current and former members of NASA come together to share their experiences working with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and what it takes to work with a team that has the ability to send a person into space, a man on the moon, and ships throughout the solar system. Featuring former NASA astronaut Cady Coleman.

### **Detectives in Urban Fantasy**

The sleuth in urban fantasy is often up against bigger problems than matching fingerprints and running mitochondrial DNA tests. Let's investigate the hard-boiled detectives in fantasy, where you're as likely to find a PI "wizard for hire" as you are to find a half-dead / half-side gumshoe to take your case. There are more to these dicks and dames than meets the eye. How do these eldritch investigators compare to their non-magic peers, and to each other? And does magic spoil a reader's chance of solving the mystery fair and square...or is it just another clue to be sussed out?

### **Beyond Afrofuturism**

Like many sub-genres of speculative fiction, Afrofuturism has a direct impact on the growth and development of the larger genre. Where is Afrofuturism going? Moreover, what authors should we be watching as they branch out into other sub-genres within the field? And are Afrofuturistic stories starting to enter the mainstream, becoming merely science fiction, fantasy, or horror? What part does marketing play in its development?

### **The Heart of Horror & Stephen King**

This year brings several standout anniversary releases from the King of horror, including *The Stand* (book), *Christine*, *The Dead Zone*, and *Cujo* (films). In many ways Stephen King sustained and revitalized the horror genre as it struggled through the rough period of redefinition and re-branding. Never wavering, King continued to produce fiction that redefined the genre. What is it about his stories that are so compelling? Why do his characters stand out? And which stories will continue to stand the test of time?

### **Supergirl's Sister**

LGBTQ characters on TV and in film are often the sidekick and tend to be a bit one-dimensional, but there are some great characters who feel like whole and complete people. One such TV standout is Alex Danvers, aka Supergirl's sister. What is it about Alex that makes her such a great example of a well-crafted character? Has her sexuality changed her character or our perception of who she is? What other examples of strong LGBTQ characters do we have?

### **Comics for Young Adults and Teens**

From Runaways to Ms. Marvel, Paper Girls, and more, comics for young adults are booming. Let's take a look at the must-read YA comics as well as some of the newer publications that are just now hitting the shelves and are not to be missed. What is it about YA comics that capture the imagination? Is this medium especially well-suited for the types of stories and topics that attract teen readers? Are they really

so different from their adult peers?

### **Electronic Evolution: Is Skynet Coming?**

In an age when AIs have begun to write their own languages when English proves insufficient and their human operators are forced to shut the programs down, what might this mean for the future of artificial intelligence? What ramifications exist for programs that (or who?) are capable of writing their own language to communicate with each other when that task is outside of their program parameters? Is this a form of evolution? What does it all mean?!?!

### **Fractured Fairy Tales**

The dry, sly, wry humor of the Fractured Fairy Tales (1959–1964) twisted old stories into something sparkling new with biting satire with just a dash of horror. What are these odd little gems? Are children still watching them? Should they be? Who else has created something refreshingly new based on fairy tales?

[Visit the Boskone 55 website](#)

## **BOSKONE IS ABOUT THE PEOPLE**

We also have more than 150+ amazing writers, artists, publishers, scientists, and editors coming back to Boskone. Many of them are featured in this year's series of Mini Interviews. Some of our program participants include:

Elizabeth Bear, Ginjer Buchanan, Dana Cameron, J. Kathleen Cheney, Cady Coleman, C.S.E. Cooney, Bruce Coville, Garen Daly, Max Gladstone, Barry Goldblatt, Theodora Goss, Auston Habershaw, William Hayashi, Les Johnson, Gregory Katsoulis, James Patrick Kelly, Flourish Klink, Scott Lynch, Sheeba Maya, Balogun Ojetade, Robert V.S. Redick, Lauren Roy, Robert Sawyer, Vandana Singh, Tui Sutherland, Fran Wilde, Kenesha Williams, Fran Wilde, Walter Jon Williams, Jane Yolen and many more!

[Find out who else is coming to Boskone!](#)

## **AN INCREDIBLE ART SHOW!**

This year's Art Show is truly amazing, featuring a special exhibit curated by Joe Siclari and Edie Stern.

### **"What a piece of work is man. How noble in reason..."**

Science fiction readers are familiar with other forms than man, some equally admirable. Some might appear nightmarish or cuddly or, er, ordinary like the creature next door (almost!). Some mirror our fears and aspirations; some are just shiny.

Join us at the next Boskone special art exhibit where we explore the creatures of the universe as imagined by some of the greatest artists of the field, past and present. See how genre illustrators have depicted intelligence within non-human beings, from aliens to underpeople.

For more than a hundred years, we have imagined aliens and robots, genetically engineered intelligences and cyborgs. Are sapient beings always readily

identifiable? How do artists overcome the challenges of conveying intelligence?



Artists represented will include: Rick Berry, Hannes Bok, Jim Burns, Vincent Di Fate, Alex Ebel, Bob Eggleton, Ed Emsch, Virgil Finlay, Kelly Freas, Fred Freeman, Donato Giancola, Mel Hunter, Greg Manchess, Frank R. Paul, Bruce Pennington, Marianne Plumridge, John Schoenherr, Ed Valigursky, Ron Walotsky, Michael Whelan and more.

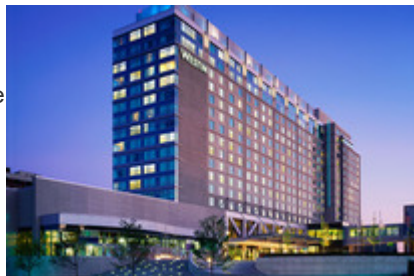
Join us as we see non-human intelligence through the eyes of accomplished illustrators of the science fiction genre. As always, the Boskone special art exhibit is sourced from the collections of artists and local enthusiasts.

[Get more information about the Boskone Art Show & Special Exhibit!](#)

## BOOK YOUR HOTEL

The Westin Waterfront is Boskone's convention hotel located at 425 Summer Street, Boston, MA.

Boskone's convention dates are February 16-18, 2018. For your convenience, the room block covers the convention dates PLUS the shoulder dates, which means the special Boskone rate is available from February 12-21, 2018 to fit your travel plans.



### Guest Room Rates

The following hotel rates at the Westin Boston Waterfront are available until 5:00 pm (EDT) on January 16, 2018 or until the block is sold out.

- Single/Double Rate: \$172
- Triple Rate: \$192
- Quad Rate: \$212

### Guest Room – Reservation Links:

- [Non-Party Block](#)
- [Party Block](#)

[Visit the Boskone Hotel page for more information.](#)

## VOLUNTEER FOR BOSKONE!

Would you like to help out? We're always looking for volunteers to help with a variety of tasks that include:

- Loading and unloading the truck.
- Setting up the Art Show.
- Various sit-down tasks like Registration, ConSuite, etc.

If you're interested in being a Boskone volunteer, please contact [volunteers@boskone.org](mailto:volunteers@boskone.org)

## GET READY FOR BOSKONE!



If you think you purchased a membership, but can't remember, please check out our [Membership Search page](#).

## SEE YOU IN FEBRUARY 2018!

We look forward to seeing you at Boskone (February 16-18, 2018)!

To learn more about the convention, please visit [Boskone's website](#) and be sure to also view our [Code of Conduct](#) and our [Access Information](#). If you have any questions, please contact us at [info@boskone.org](mailto:info@boskone.org).

[boskone.org/helmuth.html](http://boskone.org/helmuth.html) \* Send news/photos to [helmuth@boskone.org](mailto:helmuth@boskone.org) \* Email: [info@boskone.org](mailto:info@boskone.org)

Edited by Erin Underwood

\* \* \*

\* Westin Boston Waterfront, 425 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02210 \*

---

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

[Click here](#) to forward this email to a friend

Boskone  
PO Box 809  
Framingham, MA 01701  
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

**vertical** DELIVERED BY  
**response**  
Try It Free Today!