

# BOSKONE<sup>®</sup> 55



Image © Marianne Plumridge

## POCKET PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 16-18, 2018 • WESTIN BOSTON WATERFRONT

MARIANNE  
PLUMRIDGE



# **BOSKONE 55**

## Program Schedule

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

---

Convention Hours  
**page 2**

Event & Activity Locations  
**page 3**

**FRIDAY** Program Schedule  
**page 4**

**SATURDAY** Program Schedule  
**page 13**

**SUNDAY** Program Schedule  
**page 32**

Hotel Maps  
**back cover**

## CONVENTION HOURS

---

**Friday Free Hours:** Programming begins at 2:00 pm on Friday, February 16th and is free to the public from 2:00-6:00 pm. Memberships are required after 6:00 pm on Friday and throughout the duration of the convention.

	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
<b>Registration</b>	1pm-8:30pm	9am-6pm	9am-12noon
<b>Coat Check</b>	1:30pm-12:30am	9am-12:30am	9am-4pm
<b>Anime &amp; Film Screenings</b>	4pm-12midnight	10am-12midnight	10am-4pm
<b>Art Show</b>	6pm-late	10am-9pm	10am-12noon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Quick Sale:</u></b></li> <li>• <b><u>Sales:</u></b></li> </ul>		12noon-9pm	10am-12noon
<b>Con Suite</b>	4pm-1am	10am-1am	1pm-3pm
<b>Dealers Room</b>	5pm-8pm	10am-6pm	10am-4pm
<b>Filking</b>	6pm-late	10am-late	10am-3pm
<b>Gaming</b>	2pm-late	10am-late	10am-late
<b>Information/Volunteers</b>	3pm-9pm	10am-9pm	10am-3pm
<b>Program</b>	2pm-12midnight	9:30am-12midnight	9:30am-4pm
<b>Dragonslair/Kids Activities</b>	6pm-9pm	9am-12noon	9am-2pm
		1pm-5pm	
		7pm-9pm	

## GOING MOBILE WITH THE BOSKONE SCHEDULE

---

The Boskone 55 schedule is available in two forms, optimized for viewing on mobile devices.

**Grenadine Event Guide** is an application available for iOS and Android, and it is the event planning database used to produce the Boskone 55 program.



Once you have installed and launched the application, enter code BOSKONE55 to download the correct schedule.

If you have already downloaded the Grenadine app for a previous Boskone convention, you can access the Boskone 55 schedule by going to Options within the app and choosing Switch Convention. Enter the code BOSKONE55 and you will see this year's schedule populate on your device.

**KonOpas** is a website that can be viewed in any browser, and it will store all of its data in the browser for you to view later with or without internet connectivity. Just navigate to <http://schedule.boskone.org>



## EVENT LOCATIONS

Art Show Opening (Fri night)	Lower Level, Galleria
Boskone Reception, Meet the Guests, and Toast (Fri night)	
Boskone Book Party (Sat night)	
Tiptree Bake Sale (Sat night)	
Open Mic (Sat night)	
Dead Dog (Sun)	
Lego Robotics Demo & Programming (Sun)	2nd Floor, Harbor I
Regency Dance with Mary Robinette Kowal (Fri)	2nd Floor, Harbor II
Awards Ceremonies (Sat night)	2nd Floor, Harbor II & III
Rapid Fire Theater (Sat night)	
Memorial Jordin Kare Concert (Fri night)	Lobby Level, Marina 1

## ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Newsletter Distribution Point	2nd Floor, Harbor Foyer
Program Participant Check-in — Program Ops Registration	
Main Programming	2nd Floor, Harbor Rooms
Readings	
Discussion Groups	2nd Floor, Harbor I
Gaming	
Kaffeeklatches	(Friday & Saturday Only)
Filk	2nd Floor, Lewis
Anime & Film Screenings	2nd Floor, Carlton
Main Programming	Lobby Level, Marina Rooms
Coat Check	
Newsletter Distribution Point	
Fan Tables	Lower Level, Galleria Foyer
Party Board	
Art Show and Art Show Sales	Lower Level, Galleria
Autographing	
Con Suite	
Dealers Room	
DragonsLair	
Information & Volunteers	
Kaffeeklatches (Sunday)	
Makers Space	
Newsletter Distribution Point	
Office	
Print Shop	
Memory Book for Ursula K. Le Guin (Maker's Space)	

### ABOUT KAFFEEKLATCHES

- Kaffeeklatch seating is limited. You must sign up at the Program Ops Desk.
- The sign-up sheets for Saturday will be set out on Friday, and the sign-up sheets for Sunday will be set out at noon on Saturday.
- Since space is limited, please be sure to sign up early to secure a place at the table.

# PROGRAM SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY

February 16, 2018

### 2:00 PM (free to public)

#### Star Wars Mad Libs

*Mihku Paul (M), Frank Wu, Kaitlin R. Branch, Inanna Arthen, Mary Robinette Kowal*

Griffin · 60 min · Game Show

Who doesn't love a good session of Mad Libs, Boskone style? Join us for a special edition of *Star Wars Mad Libs* — in which the audience provides the nouns, adverbs, and adjectives for a raucous reading performed by our panel of program participants.

#### Splendor

Harbor I · 120 min · Gaming

#### Moonquake Escape / Leaf Me Alone

Harbor I · 240 min · Gaming

#### Generation Ships

*John R. Douglas (M), Jeffrey A. Carver, Cady Coleman, Vincent O'Neil, Stacey Berg*  
Marina 2 · 60 min · Panel

Generation ships, interstellar arks that travel at sublight speed, are all the rage in science fiction, and real-life scientists are even looking at the possibility of sending ships in space to far-off planets. Even if the science were possible, should we actually use generation ships to populate new worlds? Is it fair to the children? What are we asking of them? What might we lose or gain in the process?

#### AIs and the Female Image

*Victoria Sandbrook (M), Catherine Asaro, Christine Taylor-Butler, Laurence Raphael Brothers, John P. Murphy*

Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel

When it comes to AIs wearing mechanical bodies, until recently, many

“female” AIs were all about gorgeousness and sexuality. Now some portrayals emphasize strength and intelligence. Can you do both? How well do these creations represent women, metaphorically or realistically? How does the representation of “male” AIs differ?

#### Stories Before the Apocalypse

*Juliana Spink Mills, James Patrick Kelly (M), Julie C. Day, Alan Gordon, John Chu*

Marina 4 · 60 min · Panel

We're familiar with post-apocalyptic futures, from Max's desert hellscape to Katniss's dystopic districts. But what about right *before* the cataclysm — as doom and destruction loom large? How do people live? How do relationships change as we shift into survival mode? Let's share our few existing "must-read" favorites, and discuss stories we'd like to see.

### 3:00 PM (free to public)

#### 1950s — The Golden Age of SF Movies

*Daniel M. Kimmel (M), Garen Daly, Nat Segaloff, Vincent Di Fate, Eric Van*

Griffin · 60 min · Panel

Soon after World War II, as the Cold War introduced chilling new threats to the world's peace of mind — Hollywood (and Tokyo) launched an avalanche of SF and monster-related movies. Was this a golden age? Or were these flicks mostly cheap shockers that kept recycling variations on the theme of "Monster Attacks!"?

#### Kaffeeklatsch: Steven Popkes

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

#### Istanbul

Harbor I · 120 min · Gaming

**Welcome to Boskone!**

*Brenda Noiseux, Janice Gelb*  
Independence · 60 min · Panel

New to the con? Or returning after a long absence? Join us for a short discussion about what Boskone has to offer. Hear the highlights, learn some lingo, and meet new people who love the same strange things you do — plus some weird new stuff of their own! Then join our docents for a stroll around the con.

**My Favorite Game**

*Auston Habershaw, Walter H. Hunt (M), Carlos Hernandez, Dan Moren, M. C. DeMarco Lewis* · 60 min · Panel

Join us as we explore the wonderful world of board games. Our panel of expert gamers will discuss their favorites from the past 10 years. We'll compare bragging rights, and swap tales of our victories (or defeats). Let's include our top ten lists — feel free to bring and share your own!

**Armchair Detectives**

*Leigh Perry (M), Timothy Liebe, E.J. Stevens, Mary Kay Kare, Brendan DuBois*  
Marina 1 · 60 min · Panel

Crime and fiction have long been a popular pairing. But what have science and technology done to the prospects of pulling off the perfect murder? How much trickier must authors get to keep their readers guessing, especially in this new age of the armchair detective?

**One-Book Wonders**

*Beth Meacham, Michael Stearns (M), Bob Devney, Greer Gilman, John R. Douglas*  
Marina 2 · 60 min · Panel

Publishers (and authors) love the continuing sales and predictable incomes of a good series. But not all readers feel happy committing to a 10-volume epic fantasy saga with 500+ pages per book. The works we cherish most may be a tale well told between a

single pair of covers. Let's share and discuss our favorite stand-alone stories.

**The Real Hero of Hogwarts**

*Priscilla Olson (M), Julia Rios, Pete Hollmer, Gabriel Erkard, Flourish Klink*  
Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel

Everyone knows the Harry Potter series. Harry is at the center of the story with events swirling around him, but is he the real hero? In fact, is there any real hero at Hogwarts? Let's discuss heroism. What does it take to be a hero — and what does that even mean in a place like Hogwarts?

**Angels in Speculative Fiction**

*Bob Kuhn (M), Alexander Jablovkov, Victoria Sandbrook, Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Walt Williams*  
Marina 4 · 60 min · Panel

Angels in fantasy, science fiction, and horror aren't always what you might expect. There are the ones that behave, well, angelically, and the fallen angels — but also bad-tempered angels, angels from advanced civilizations, and more. What attracts writers (and readers) to this motif? What common themes, like redemption or the Fall, recur? Are there novel ways to write an angel?

---

**4:00 PM (free to public)**


---

**Curse Your Inevitable Romantic Subplot!**

*Suzanne Reynolds-Alpert, J. Kathleen Cheney, Kevin McLaughlin, Heather Albano (M), Juliana Spink Mills*

Burroughs · 60 min · Panel

Just when things are getting good, somebody has to go and fall in love. Are romantic subplots required? And what makes them work or fail in the larger storyline?

**Dragonar Academy**

Carlton · 100 min · Film/TV/Media

Ash is a student at Ansalivan Dragon Academy, attended by children who have formed contracts with dragons. He

possesses the "star mark," the sign of a contract, but since his partner hasn't been born yet, he seems insignificant. The awakening of the dragon he's raising inside his body is triggered by an incident, and it emerges in the form of a young girl.

### Reading by Catherine Asaro

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

### Kaffeeklatsch: Jane Yolen

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

### Kaffeeklatsch: James Cambias

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

### Revisiting Big Dumb Objects

*Mark L. Olson (M), M. C. DeMarco, Daniel P. Dern, Jeff Warner, Brendan DuBois*

Harbor III · 60 min · Panel

Big Dumb Objects (BDO) are so called because they evoke a sense of wonder simply by existing. The objects themselves are numinous: no plot needed, no characterizations should bother to apply. The term, really, is a bit of a putdown; is it fair? The case can be made that BDOs are one of SF's truly unique inventions, and ought to be appreciated as such. So let's celebrate the Big Dumb Objects we know and love — and perhaps a few we've missed along the way.

### Japanese Light Novels

*Kaitlin R. Branch*

Lewis · 60 min · Solo Talk

Some of the most popular Japanese anime has come out of light novels.

We'll discuss what differentiates these novels from SF/fantasy literature from the U.S., run down some of the most popular titles, and explore what makes these books so popular.

### The New Doctor Is Coming!

*Jim Mann (M), Don Pizarro, Carrie Cuinn, Dana Cameron, Gerald L. Coleman*

Marina 1 · 60 min · Panel

The new Doctor Who has a female body. That's great, but really is that all we're looking forward to this year? What else is in store for the good Doctor? And will her new appearance change the character we have grown to love? Will she, like Missy, become softer? Will she have a female companion? And why did she choose a female body this time?

### Reimagining the Book

*Jen Gunnels*

Marina 2 · 60 min · Solo Talk

Does print have to come first? What other forms matter? How does format affect the "book" quality and/or sales? What might be a much-needed change for the future? How about releasing books as serials, as we did in the distant past? Let's think outside of the book box.

### Big YA

*Michael Stearns, Tamora Pierce, Christine Taylor-Butler, Gregory Katsoulis (M), E. Ardell*  
Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel

What is Big YA? Well, it's a term we just made up here at Boskone to talk about the intricacies of writing, editing, and publishing big, long young adult series. What are the challenges associated with writing a series where the characters often don't age as quickly as their readers? How do you track all the details without dropping threads? And why are these long epic YA series so popular today?

### The 10 Books That Made Me a Fan

*Steve Davidson (M), Tony Lewis FN, Kenneth Rogers Jr., Genny Dazzo, Patrick Nielsen Hayden*

Marina 4 · 60 min · Panel

There are books that interest us, books that inspire us, and books that stimulate us to read more! Our panelists share the books that made them fans and kept them reading. What's so special about these works?



**4:30 PM (free to public)****Reading by Walter Jon Williams**

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

**Reading by Alan Gordon**

Independence · 30 min · Reading

**5:00 PM (free to public)****Law and Justice in Speculative Fiction***B. Diane Martin, Bracken MacLeod, Kenneth Schneyer (M), Alan Gordon, Auston Habershaw*

Burroughs · 60 min · Panel

In an SF or fantasy world, justice may be meted out by a familiar legal system, by religious hierarchies that rule through faith, by some corrupt order that props up an evil regime, etc. How do you show the complex evolution/interplay of a society and its justice system in a single tale? Why do so many stories concentrate on crime and criminals? How do you quickly sketch out a justice system for a culture that's different from our own?

**Reading by James Patrick Kelly**

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

**Kaffeeklatsch: Jeff Hecht**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Kaffeeklatsch: Walter Hunt**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**St. Petersburg**

Harbor I - Gaming · 120 min · Gaming

**YA Fiction Guest Interview: Tamora Pierce***Tamora Pierce, Julie Holderman*

Harbor III · 60 min · Interview

With a brand-new book out and nearly 30 other novels, dozens of short stories, and several comics to her name, Tamora Pierce is a much-loved author of children's and young adult fantasy fiction. Join us for this lively discussion with Tamora about her life, her writing,

and her love of cats, conducted by her longtime friend Julie Holderman.

**Reading by Marshall Ryan Maresca**

Independence · 30 min · Reading

**Tarot and Divining Fantastic Fiction***Trisha Woodridge*

Lewis · 60 min · Discussion Group

Author and Tarot guru Trisha

Woodridge leads a discussion on Tarot, fortune telling, and the art of the seer in fantasy and science fiction. Trisha will provide a live demonstration.

**Interstellar Travel — Separating the Reality From the Fiction***Les Johnson*

Marina 1 · 60 min · Solo Talk

Traveling to the stars will be difficult, and require engineering on a scale unimaginable today — but the laws of nature say it can be done. In this talk, Les Johnson will describe 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!

**Collaborating With Others***Sarah Smith, LJ Cohen (M), Adam Stemple, Craig Miller, Tom Easton, Jane Yolen*

Marina 2 · 60 min · Panel

Collaboration isn't always easy — learning to work with others, even your friends, can be tricky. But it can create some amazing results. Our participants share their experiences, advice, and questions as they reveal the joys and pitfalls of partnered art.

**Incorporating Cultures Into Fiction***Beth Meacham (M), Lauren Roy, Mihku Paul, Carlos Hernandez, Erin Roberts*

Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel

In writing, it's hard to navigate between *inclusion* and *appropriation* of a culture or cultural elements. But like it or hate

it, people write what they know ... or at least what they think they know. Complicating matters, the definitions of these two words are fuzzy for many. So, what *is* cultural appropriation? How do we incorporate cultures or aspects of cultures without crossing the line?

### **Dragonflight by Anne McCaffrey**

*Rob Greene, Jen Gunnels, Mary Kay Kare, Darlene Marshall, Bob Kuhn (M)*

Marina 4 · 60 min · Panel

Fifty years ago, Anne McCaffrey released *Dragonflight*, the first novel in her Dragon Riders of Pern series. This epic fantasy series captured the hearts and minds of generations of readers. What is it about this book and this series that is so compelling?

**5:30 PM** (free to public)

### **Reading by Robert J Sawyer**

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

### **Boskone's Regency Dance with Guest of Honor Mary Robinette Kowal**

*Kevin Turausky, Antonia Pugliese, Mary Robinette Kowal*

Harbor II · 90 min · Event

Calling all dancers! Join our Guest of Honor, Mary Robinette Kowal, as we travel back in time to Britain's Regency period, when dancing was all the craze. Antonia Pugliese from Commonwealth Vintage Dancers, a Boston-area nonprofit that reconstructs, performs, and teaches dances of the 19th and early 20th century, will lead us through Boskone's special set of Regency dances. So put on your 19th century duds or keep your modern wardrobe to represent your favorite era — as we genre-happy gentlefolk join together to dance, Regency-style!

### **Reading by Greer Gilman**

Independence · 30 min · Reading

**5:45 PM**

### **Dirty Pair: Project Eden**

Carlton · 85 min · Film/TV/Media

When the planet Agerna comes under attack, the 3WA sends its top trouble consultants — Kei and Yuri. Can they solve the mystery behind the attacks in time to save the planet's Vizorium supplies? And can the planet survive having the Lovely Angels on the case? In Japanese with English subtitles.

### **\* Free Programming Ends \***

Memberships are needed after 6:00 p.m.

**6:00 PM**

### **Asimov's Laws**

*Robert J. Sawyer*

Burroughs · 60 min · Solo Talk

Asimov's Laws of Robotics just turned 75; they date from World War II. Isn't it time we abandoned what, really, is a slaveholder's credo in favor of a win-win scenario for interactions between humans and artificial intelligences? Join Robert J. Sawyer, who wrote a guest editorial for the journal *Science* on "Robot Ethics" and is the author of the Hugo Award-nominated *Wake*, which seeks just such a non-zero-sum solution, for a lively talk followed by audience discussion.

### **Origami for Kids**

Galleria · 60 min · Children - DragonsLair

### **Group Reading: Speculative Fiction Shorts**

*Jack M. Haringa (M), Christian Baines, Steve Berman, Susan Jane Bigelow, Suzanne Reynolds-Alpert, H Paul Shuch, Rajnar Vajra*  
Griffin · 60 min · Reading

You're sure to enjoy this specially designed group reading, which brings together a select group of Boskone's speculative fiction authors — just for you.

**Kaffeeklatsch: Adam Stemple**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Kaffeeklatsch: Catherine Asaro**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Meet Up: The State of Black Science Fiction Facebook Group***Gerald Coleman*

Harbor I · 60 min · Discussion Group

Join Gerald Coleman for a discussion

focused on the popular Facebook group

The State of Black Science Fiction and

visit the group online at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/blackscifi/>**Exploring Gender in Speculative Fiction***Julie Holderman, Inanna Arthen, Stephen P. Kelner Jr., Suzanne Palmer, Stacey Berg (M)*

Harbor III · 60 min · Panel

In 1969, Ursula Le Guin's *The Left Hand of Darkness* famously featured an androgynous culture. More recently,Ann Leckie's celebrated Ancillary series and her latest novel, *Provenance*,

treat readers to a society in which gender doesn't matter. What other SF/F/H writers offer us gender-expansive characters or societies? Why and when should gender matter?

**How to Do Magic Tricks***Daniel P. Dern*

Independence · 60 min · Solo Talk

Author and magician Daniel Dern has entertained Boskone's children for years in DragonsLair. It's now time for their parents to get in on the act. Daniel shares tips, tricks, and possibly even a few mysteries of the magical arts!

**Awesome Action Sequences***Vincent O'Neil*

Lewis · 60 min · Workshop

Author Vincent O'Neil leads a short workshop for writers who would like to hone the craft of writing action sequences.

**SF/F (NESFA) Hymnal Singing**

Marina 1 · 60 min · Filk

**The Sword in the Stone: A New Beginning for the Arthurian Legends?***Faye Ringel, Elizabeth Bear, E. Ardell, Auston Habershaw, Heather Albano (M)*

Marina 2 · 60 min · Panel

First published in 1938 as a stand-alone tale, T. H. White's *The Sword in the Stone* departs from older sources to (wonderfully) imagine King Arthur as a boy in Merrie Olde England. What did it bring to now-popular tropes such as shapeshifting, the hidden prince, or the magical education? Later incorporated into the first part of White's 1958 novel *The Once and Future King*, it helped spark the musical *Camelot*. (And, of course, *Spamalot*.) Would we remember much about King Arthur, his Knights, and their Round Table without these books? How did they influence the wider fantasy genre? Have they been replaced by the stories they inspired?**Folktales Within Poetry***Theodora Goss (M), Jane Yolen, C. S. E. Cooney, John Chu, Trisha Wooldridge*

Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel

From "The Lady of Shalott" to "Goblin Market" to *The Iliad*, some quite engaging poems are inspired by folklore, legends, or myths. What other examples can we add — perhaps from non-European poetry? What do folk sources bring that an original story might lack? Our panelists will discuss (and perhaps read) some of their favorites — what are yours?**Heinlein's Rules for Writers***Kevin McLaughlin*

Marina 4 · 60 min · Solo Talk

Heinlein's rules offer a different model for writers from the one most commonly taught; they're a lot of fun to follow, but challenging. Put into place, they have helped many writers achieve professional success. Come learn more

about classic SF author Robert A. Heinlein (1907-1988) and his processes.

## 7:00 PM

### History of Death Rays in Fact and Fiction

*Jeff Hecht*

Burroughs · 60 min · Solo Talk

Scientist and laser expert Jeff Hecht walks us through the fact, fiction, and fun of death rays. Some of the things we see on the silver screen may or may not be possible today, but who knows what the future may hold?

### Space Exploration for Kids

*Les Johnson*

Galleria · 60 min · Children - DragonsLair

Kids get an up-close look at materials used for space exploration in this discussion group — led by NASA scientist Les Johnson — about spaceships and interstellar travel.

### Reading by Brendan DuBois

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

### Kaffeeklatsch: Auston Habershaw

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

### Kaffeeklatsch: Elaine Isaak

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

### Puerto Rico

Harbor I · 120 min · Gaming

### The Greatest Space Opera Ever

*Allen M. Steele, Kevin McLaughlin (M), Scott*

*Lynch, Walter H. Hunt, Suzanne Palmer*

Harbor III · 60 min · Panel

Space opera. Wait, it's *not* singers in outer space? Then: What is it? Why is it called that? Why is it so popular? And, in the opinions of the panel and our audience, what *is* the greatest space opera ever? Inquiring Boskonians want to know.

### Before the Flat Screen

*Ginjer Buchanan (M), Deirdre Crimmins, Daniel M. Kimmel, Tony Lewis FN, Craig Miller*

Lewis · 60 min · Panel

They may lack the amazing visuals and grittier content of today's science fiction and fantasy shows, but some of the TV series we grew up on continue to delight. Let's dish over our long-ago favorite fare. Remember *Bewitched*, *My Favorite Martian*, *I Dream of Jeannie*, *The Jetsons*, or *ALF*? Why do these oldies still resonate today? Can they teach us anything? Na-No, Na-No!

### Name That Legendary Object

*Michael Sharrow (M), Jennifer Pelland, Teresa*

*Nielsen Hayden, Frank Wu, Erin Roberts*

Marina 2 · 60 min · Game Show

Legendary objects of yore — from various worlds throughout the universe, and from myriad planes of existence — have been gathered together in anticipation of this special Boskone game, for the entertainment and edification of the public. Our expert "historians" compete for the ultimate prize as they seek to identify these awesome articles, which may have once been owned by gods, heroes, villains ... or the occasional ancient street sweeper. Audience participation is encouraged: bring your favorite enigmatic items to be identified by our adepts of the interdimensional.

### All the Universe's a Stage ...

*Jeanne Beckwith, James Patrick Kelly, Jen*

*Gunnels, C. S. E. Cooney, F. Brett Cox (M)*

Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel

... And all the men and women (and robots, and wizards) merely players. William Shakespeare was a Jedi master at creating characters and building tension upon the stage. What can he teach us about how to craft a compelling SF/F/H character? And how to make completely unrealistic situations and

people *feel* real, given the limitations of whatever medium we choose?

### Future of Noir

*Alexander Jablovok (M), Nik Korpon, Vikki Ciaffone, Laurence Raphael Brothers, Christopher Irvin*

Marina 4 · 60 min · Panel

Noir (the French word for “black”) began as a Hollywood subgenre depicting hard-boiled, cynical characters in sleazy settings. It’s certainly found a new home in urban fantasy. But is the murky world of noir inherently incompatible with the sleek, shiny surfaces of science fiction? Or as our visions of the fruits of science and technology grow darker, does noir have a future as a main strain of SF?

---

**7:15 PM**

---

### Hidden Figures

Carlton · 127 min · Film/TV/Media

As the United States raced against Russia to put a man in space, NASA found untapped talent in African-American female mathematicians, who served as some of the brains behind one of the greatest operations in U.S. history. This film follows three of these women, known as “human computers,” as they rose in the ranks of NASA. Alongside many of history’s greatest minds, they were tasked with calculating the momentous launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit, and guaranteeing his safe return. (2016)

---

**7:30 PM**

---

### Reading by Bruce Coville

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

---

**8:00 PM**

---

### The Many Influences on Horror

*Deirdre Crimmins, Bracken MacLeod (M), Suzanne Reynolds-Alpert, Vikki Ciaffone*

Burroughs · 60 min · Panel

If we can discuss fantasy without constantly talking Tolkien, we ought to be able to consider the history of horror without always invoking Lovecraft. What other influences, major or minor, have impacted the growth of horror, generating the genre we know today?

### Creature Creations

*Christopher Paniccia*

Galleria · 60 min · Children - DragonsLair

Author and artist Christopher Paniccia works with kids to help them create their own amazing creatures.

### Group Reading: Cambridge SF Workshop

*Heather Albano, James Cambias, F. Brett Cox, Gillian Daniels, Alexander Jablovok, Steven Popkes (M), Kenneth Schneyer, Sarah Smith Griffin* · 90 min · Reading

A rapid-fire reading by the members of the long-running Cambridge SF Workshop, featuring writers Heather Albano, James L. Cambias, F. Brett Cox, Gillian Daniels, Alex Jablovok, Steve Popkes, Ken Schneyer (M), Sarah Smith, and Cadwell Turnbull.

### Kaffeeklatsch: Tom Easton

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

### Munchkin

Harbor I · 120 min · Gaming

### Girl's Got Game

*Brianna Wu*

Lewis · 60 min · Solo Talk

We’re tired of talking about what we can do. It’s time to start talking about what we have done. This gamer girl shares what it’s like working in the gaming field, both pros and cons, and boasts a bit about the games she’s created and designed.

**Fantasy in Gilbert & Sullivan**

*Ellen Asher, Greer Gilman, Timothy Liebe, Faye Ringel (M), Daniel P. Dern*

Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel

Fandom and the comic operas of Gilbert and Sullivan go back a long way. Isaac Asimov was an avid Savoyard (G&S fan), as have been many other SF/F writers. The operas themselves exemplify — and parody — the tropes of fantasy (*Iolanthe*), medievalism (*Pattience*), and Gothic horror (*Ruddigore*, *The Sorcerer*). Boskone also has special connections with G&S. Why are these Victorian masterpieces still so popular in (and out of) fannish culture?

**Fresh Fantasy Worlds**

*Gerald L. Coleman, Andrea Corbin, John R. Douglas (M), Marshall Ryan Maresca, Patrick Nielsen Hayden*

Marina 4 · 60 min · Panel

“High” fantasies in much of western speculative literature lean heavily on the European Middle Ages for inspiration. Pastoral landscapes, Camelottian castles, noble knights, distressed damsels. All much loved — all done to death. (Or killed off by George R. R. Martin.) Why do we still cling to them so? What’s it take to create a fresh fantasy world? Besides European models, what other options are there? And how do you enliven tropes, settings, and situations that have become old hat?

**8:30 PM****Jordin Kare Memorial Concert**

*Mary Kay Kare, Mary Ellen Wessels, Roberta Rogow, Stephen Brinich, Gary Ehrlich, H Paul Shuch, Benjamin Newman, Edie Stern, Priscilla Olson (M), Edward L. Stauff*

Marina 1 · 60 min · Event

Join Boskone's filkers for a very special concert celebrating the life and music of our longtime friend Jordin Kare.

**8:45 PM****Opening Ceremony: Meet the Guests**

*David G. Grubbs (M), Gay Ellen Dennett (M), Catherine Asaro, Mary Robinette Kowal, Craig Miller, Tamora Pierce, Marianne Plumridge, Nat Segaloff*

Galleria - Stage · 15 min · Event

Welcome to Boskone, New England's longest-running convention for science fiction, fantasy, and horror! Whether you are attending for the first time or the fifty-fifth, we invite you to join us in the Galleria to meet this year's guests.

**9:00 PM****Boskone 55 Reception**

*Catherine Asaro, Mary Robinette Kowal, Craig Miller, Tamora Pierce, Marianne Plumridge, Nat Segaloff, Gay Ellen Dennett (M), David G. Grubbs (M)*

Galleria - Art Show · 120 min · Event

Connoisseurs and philistines alike: welcome to the Boskone Art Show! Join us in the Galleria for an upscale social mixer. Meet our program participants while enjoying refreshments, stimulating conversation, and exceptional art that's a feast for the eyes. Experience the music and the festivities as Boskone celebrates another year of science fiction, fantasy, and horror in Boston.

**Robo Rally**

Harbor I · 180 min · Gaming

**The Truth About Vampiric Folklore**

*Inanna Arthen*

Lewis · 60 min · Solo Talk

Everything you think you know about “traditional” vampires is, probably, (un)dead wrong! We'll explore what people who really believed in vampires really believed.

**Evolution and Alien Psychology***Stephen P. Kelner Jr.*

Marina 3 · 60 min · Solo Talk

Earth is just one tiny speck in the universe, not to mention the multiverse (if that even exists). From planet to planet, life likely starts in different ways and evolves according to its own rules, influences, and experiences. How might different origins lead to the evolution of different types of people, different societies, and different understandings of personhood and psychology?

**9:30 PM****Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2**

Carlton · 137 min · Film/TV/Media

The Guardians must fight to keep their newfound family together as they unravel the mystery of Peter Quill's true parentage. Old foes become new allies, and fan-favorite characters from the classic comics will come to our heroes' aid as the Marvel Cinematic Universe continues to expand. (2017)

**Trivia for Chocolate***Mark L. Olson, Priscilla Olson*

Marina 4 · 60 min · Game Show

How much chocolate can you collect in an hour? The MCs ask the questions, and the audience shouts out the answers. Get the correct answer first and win big kudos ... plus a small wrapped chocolate.

**10:00 PM****Boskone's 2000s Dance Party***Madeline Lee, Tristan Marks*

Harbor II · 120 min · Other

Get your boogie on! Join our Boskone DJs Madeline and Tristan for some late-night dancing.

**Open Filking**

Marina 1 · 240 min · Filk

**SATURDAY**

February 17, 20178

**10:00 AM****Feminist Fairy Tales***Jane Yolen, Victoria Sandbrook, Andrea Corbin, Julia Rios (M), E.J. Stevens Burroughs* · 60 min · Panel

Women frequently serve as the main characters of fairy tales. (Why, by the way?) It's hard not to notice they're often presented as victims, or the subjects of a lesson learned. Do any tales instead offer strong female role models? What can modern feminist perspectives contribute when considering stories from so long ago and/or far away?

**The Lego Batman Movie**

Carlton · 100 min · Film/TV/Media

A really slick (in fact, plastic) Bruce Wayne must deal with the usual suspects as they plan to take over Gotham City, while discovering that he has accidentally adopted a teenage orphan who wishes to become his sidekick. (2017)

**Autographing: J. Kathleen Cheney, Brendan DuBois, Dan Moren, Sarah Smith**

Galleria · 60 min · Autographing

**Drawing Aliens***Gregory Katsoulis (M)*

Galleria · 60 min · Children - DragonsLair

Join author and animator Gregory Katsoulis for some alien drawing fun!

**Reading by Nat Segaloff**

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

**Classic Dungeons & Dragons Game***James Cambias (M)*

Harbor I · 180 min · Gaming

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

**Kaffeeklatsch: Bruce Coville**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Kaffeeklatsch: Christine Taylor-Butler**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Watching Westworld***Priscilla Olson, Marianna Martin*

Harbor I · 60 min · Discussion Group

What makes HBO's ranchers-and-robots TV show *Westworld* so amazing — and what insights does the series give us into the development of consciousness? (Warning: There will be SPOILERS if you didn't see all of Season 1!)

**Jump Drive**

Harbor I · 120 min · Gaming

**Urban Fantasy in the Light***Vikki Ciaffone (M), Hillary Monahan, Leigh**Perry, Errick Nunnally, James Moore*

Harbor II · 60 min · Panel

Urban fantasy tends to lurk in the dark corners of a noirish society, down where only the shadows dwell. Must these stories be quite so grim? Why is it always *night*? Where's the color and brightness? Why so much black leather? Would the occasional pair of pink pastel pedal pushers get you arrested by the genre police?

**The Future of Medicine***Justin Key, James D. Macdonald (M), M. C.**DeMarco, Stacey Berg, Don Pizarro*

Harbor III · 60 min · Panel

Medical advances are, well, advancing by leaps and bounds. What's new? Will AI administer a booster shot to discovery? And what about those pesky nanites? Our panelists share their favorite new developments in medicine and medical technology. Can SF authors prescribe new ideas to rock the docs' world?

**Reading by Kristin Janz**

Independence · 30 min · Reading

**Filk: I Hear Fandom Singing!***Edie Stern (M), Faye Ringel, Gary Ehrlich, Roberta Rogow*

Lewis · 60 min · Panel

Legend has it that "fiksinging" originated in a 1950s typo for "folksinging." Is this origin story true? And has filk, like the Velveteen Rabbit, grown into the real song of the fannish people? Our panel of filk performers and scholars will engage in another traditional practice: arguing over definitions. Cave canem! (Beware, they may sing).

**Writing Workshops & MFA Programs Redux***John Chu, Jeanne Cavelos, James Patrick Kelly (M), Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Erin Roberts*

Marina 1 · 60 min · Panel

Thinking about attending a writing workshop or an MFA program? Wondering how to pick the one that's right for you? Once you do: then what? There's no magic formula to elicit an acceptance letter, but a solid application is a good place to start. Join representatives from various writing programs, and learn how to present the best of what you have to offer to win your place.

**Jurassic Park and Dinosaurs v. 5.0***Bob Eggleton, Elise Sacchetti (M), David McDonald, William Hayashi, Michael Swanwick*

Marina 2 · 60 min · Panel

Twenty-five years ago, an islandful of dinosaurs tore up the Hollywood box office. Four flicks later (in June, *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom* will make five), these reptile relics continue to slay us. Why is the thought of a dinosaur theme park still so cool? (And by the way, what's funny about the concept of dinos in space?) More broadly, why would the idea of the prehistoric past colliding with our present/future hold such fascination?



And would we be better off letting sleeping saurians lie?

**Boskone Book Club: Ghost Talkers by Mary Robinette Kowal**

*Bob Kuhn (M), Mary Robinette Kowal*  
Marina 3 · 60 min · Discussion Group  
The Boskone Book Club continues! Join us for a conversation that brings congoers together to consider one noteworthy work at length. This year we are reading historical fantasy *Ghost Talkers* by Mary Robinette Kowal (our Guest of Honor). Boskone's own Bob Kuhn will lead the discussion; Mary Robinette Kowal will join the group halfway through for a Q&A. To participate, please read the book and come ready with your thoughts and questions.

**Technology and the Crisis of Conscience**

*Pete Hollmer, Karl Schroeder, Jeff Warner (M), LJ Cohen, Cady Coleman*  
Marina 4 · 60 min · Panel  
Just because you *can* do it doesn't mean you *should*. Characters like Mary Shelley's Frankenstein and Masamune Shirow's Major demonstrate some consequences of the headlong pursuit of scientific breakthroughs. What are the real stakes in the playing-god game? Will we use technological advances for good or evil? What will guide us? And how does fiction help inform our ethical dilemmas?

---

**10:30 AM**

---

**Reading by Adam Stemple**

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

**Reading by Shahid Mahmud**

Independence · 30 min · Reading

---

**11:00 AM**

---

**Colonialism and the New Space Race**

*Vandana Singh, Pete Hollmer, Karl Schroeder, William Hayashi, Allen M. Steele (M)*

Burroughs · 60 min · Panel  
European expansion into the American West and other "new frontiers" used to be portrayed as a great adventure — and a civilizing enterprise. For those being invaded, however, colonial expansion has been less pleasant. The Space Act of 2015 allows the commercialization of space by private entities. But if powerful technocrats like Elon Musk use tropes from Westerns to promote Mars exploration, will we venture into space with the same old colonialist attitudes? Or can we learn from history, and approach space exploration with new mindsets?

**Autographing: Jeffrey A. Carver, Theodora Goss, Mary Robinette Kowal, Marshall Ryan Maresca**

Galleria · 60 min · Autographing

**Alice in Wonderland's Mad Hatter Hats**

*Mihku Paul*  
Galleria · 60 min · Children - DragonsLair  
Join artist and author Mihku Paul for a wonder-filled hat making session.

**Encaustics for Adults**

*Lisa Hertel*  
Galleria · 120 min · Makers Space  
Join artist Lisa Hertel for a fun session of encaustics — the ancient art of painting with wax. This session will run for 2 hours, so please feel free to drop in at any point.

**Welcome to Boskone!**

*Leslie J. Turek, Laurie Mann*  
Galleria - Meetup Spot · 60 min · Panel  
New to the con? Or returning after a long absence? Join us for a short discussion about what Boskone has to offer. Hear the highlights, learn some lingo, and meet new people who love the same strange things you do — plus some weird new stuff of their own! Then join our docents for a stroll around the con.

**Reading by Scott Lynch**

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

**Kaffeeklatsch: Max Gladstone**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Kaffeeklatsch: Tamora Pierce**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Objection! The Game***John P. Murphy*

Harbor I · 60 min · Discussion Group

The Phoenix Wright series of visual novel adventure videogames has used a blend of science fiction and fantasy tropes to explore ideas about law and justice. What makes a game about lawyers and lawcourts so fun and exciting, and how well does it get its ideas across?

**Star Wars: A New Beginning Reawakens Again***Craig Miller, Brianna Wu, Nik Korpon (M), Erin Underwood, Garen Daly*

Harbor II · 60 min · Panel

*Star Wars: The Last Jedi* scored with many, but not all, fans — and broke many, but not all, box office records. Looking back over the *SW* saga: what's it all about so far? And looking ahead: will we keep watching after 2019, when *Episode IX* caps the storyline begun by Luke, Leia, and Han? (Disney, now the franchise owner, says the *Wars* won't be over for at least 15 more years.) Whose story do we want to see next? Whom do you ship? What would you skip?

**NESFA Press Guest Interview, Featuring Nat Segaloff***Tim Richmond, Nat Segaloff*

Harbor III · 60 min · Interview

Nat Segaloff, our NESFA Press Guest and author of *A Lit Fuse: The Provocative Life of Harlan Ellison*, shares the ups and downs of writing the biography of one of science fiction's most controversial figures. Hear the tales only Nat can tell as he shares some choice "Harlan stories," and touches on

other notable figures and experiences in SF, media, and society. Conducting the interview is Tim Richmond, author of *Fingerprints on the Sky: The Authorized Harlan Ellison Bibliography*. This don't-miss session may well be the only time these two Ellison experts share a dais.

**Reading by Victoria Sandbrook**

Independence · 30 min · Reading

**Concert: Catherine Asaro**

Lewis · 60 min · Concert

Come sit and enjoy a special concert with Catherine Asaro, Boskone's Hal Clement Science Speaker.

**The Art of Character Portraits***Reiko Murakami, Marianne Plumridge, Jonathan Hunt, Vincent Di Fate (M), Christopher Paniccia*

Marina 1 · 60 min · Panel

Portraits are difficult to master. The artist must capture the glint in the eye, the tilt of the neck, shadow and light, color and texture, and everything around the subject. Plus, in the speculative art world, not all portraits are of people. How do you portray a fantastic creature when there are no models?

**The Rise and Fall (and Rise) of the SF Short Story***James Patrick Kelly, Paul Di Filippo, Julie C. Day, Suzanne Palmer, Darrell Schweitzer (M)*

Marina 2 · 60 min · Panel

Back in the day, the SF/F/H short was the genre's centerpiece, economically and artistically. Today SF is a novel business. Or is it? There may be more talented short story writers and ready markets around than ever. Let's trace the importance and popularity of the short form, and consider how short stories might help shape the genre's future.

**Black Publishers in SF/F**

*Christine Taylor-Butler (M), Kenesha Williams, Justin Key, Gerald L. Coleman, Clarence Young*

Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel

Science fiction and fantasy work by black writers is thriving. The environment is slowly (but finally) changing, as more publishers, editors, and artists enter the market every day. Our panelists discuss the lay of the land, the challenges of publishing black-themed content, getting shelf space at large and/or independent bookstores, and more.

**CRISPR, Gene Editing, and the Future of Food**

*David G. Shaw (M), Rajnar Vajra, Kaitlin R. Branch, Kristin Janz, Stacey Berg*

Marina 4 · 60 min · Panel

Clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR) techniques for gene editing are said to find wide application in the food industry, raising the possibility of food that won't spoil so fast. Or pigs that carry less harmful fat. Such genetically modified organisms (GMOs) carry considerable promise — plus a fat load of questions about possible consequences. Let's talk about the future of food.

**11:30 AM****Reading by Elizabeth Bear**

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

**Reading by Janet Catherine Johnston**

Independence · 30 min · Reading

**11:45 AM****Bubblegum Crisis (ep 1): Tinsel City**

Carlton · 46 min · Film/TV/Media

A female mercenary team, armed with unique power armor suits, battle the forces of the corrupt mega-corporation

Genom in futuristic Tokyo. In this episode 1, The Knight Sabers fight Boomers and encounter AD Officer Leon McNichol. Aqua City is destroyed.

**12:00 NOON****Class Structure in SF and Fantasy**

*Walter Jon Williams, Scott Lynch (M), Kenneth Rogers Jr., Susan Jane Bigelow*

Burroughs · 60 min · Panel

Where's all the great SF/F about working stiffs? Even if they serve as more than set dressing, working-class heroes often undergo some Cinderella transformation that moves them up in class. What stories succeed in keeping the class and culture of their protagonists intact, treating them seriously and realistically while launching them on their fantastic journeys? Does SF see the preservation of class systems as important, or is it just a tool to keep a good person down?

**Tour of the Art Exhibit (I)**

*Joe Siclari, Edie Stern*

Galleria · Art Show · 60 min · Docent Tour

Take an informative stroll around the special art exhibit with the curators. You'll hit the highlights with knowledgeable guides who can indicate points of interest.

**Autographing: Elizabeth Bear, Elaine Cunningham, Timothy Liebe, Jane Yolen**

*Elizabeth Bear, Timothy Liebe, Elaine Cunningham, Jane Yolen*

Galleria · 60 min · Autographing

**DragonsLair Closed for Lunch**

Galleria · 60 min · Children - DragonsLair

### Group Reading: Fiction for Kids and Young Adults

*Kristy Acevedo, Daniel P. Dern, Erin M. Hartshorn (M), Sarah Jean Horwitz, Justin Key, Trisha Wooldridge*

Griffin · 60 min · Reading

Boskone presents a special group reading for lovers of children's and young adult fiction. Our authors provide a range of stories and topics that are sure to delight and entertain!

### Game of Thrones: The End Is Nigh!

*Priscilla Olson*

Harbor I · 60 min · Discussion Group

Our annual attempt to speculate on the future of everyone's favorite spec fic TV show (not to mention the books)! Join us for another lively discussion of what appealing pageantry and perversity or delectable butchery and betrayal await us. Speaking of which, now that we've outrun the books and we're nearing the end, does anyone really know what's in store for the characters we love to hate — and the ones we hate to love? Warning: possible spoilers ahead!

### Kaffeeklatsch: Jeffrey A. Carver

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

### Kaffeeklatsch: John Langan and James Moore

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

### Moonquake Escape/Leaf Me Alone

Harbor I · 360 min · Gaming

### A Wizard of Earthsea

*Catherine Asaro, Vandana Singh, Robert V.S. Redick, Fran Wilde, Max Gladstone (M)*

Harbor II · 60 min · Panel

Ursula K. Le Guin's masterpiece was published 50 years ago. A classic coming-of-age story, *A Wizard of Earthsea* continues to cast its spell over teens and adults alike. Why is Ged such a compelling character? What makes the story as fresh and appealing today as in 1968? What does it have to say about

words, magic, ambition, patience, truth, death? Our panelists share their insights — and favorite parts.

### It's Not Always About Sex

*Juliana Spink Mills, Darlene Marshall (M), E.J. Stevens, Tamora Pierce, Steven Popkes*  
Harbor III · 60 min · Panel

Speculative fiction is filled with friendships that turn into romantic entanglements. Is that all there is? Can't our characters just have friends, of whatever gender, without hookups and/or heartbreaks? How about we rescue the world from the odd apocalypse or alien invasion, and forget about the sex for a change?

### How To Write A 10-Minute Play

*James Patrick Kelly*

Independence · 60 min · Workshop

Author and playwright James Patrick Kelly shares tips and tricks on how to write a short 10-minute play, covering basic structure issues, character development, and timing. Sign-up is required.

### Song Circle: Space Travel

*H Paul Shuch*

Lewis · 60 min · Filk

Come join us and sing about those far-off spaceflights.

### Detectives in Urban Fantasy

*Leigh Perry, Ginjer Buchanan, Brendan DuBois, Christopher Panicia (M), Dana Cameron*

Marina 1 · 60 min · Panel

Let's inspect the hard-boiled detectives of Fantasy Town: sorcerous sherlocks, PI wizards for hire, half-dead/half-sidhe gumshoes, and more. How do these eldritch investigators compare to their non-magical peers? To each other? Does magic spoil a reader's chance of solving the mystery fair and square — or is it just another clue to be sussed out?

**A Case for Space**

*Cady Coleman, Janet Catherine Johnston, Jeanne Cavelos, Les Johnson, Vincent Docherty (M)*

Marina 2 · 60 min · Panel

Current and former members of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration come together to share their experiences — and perhaps make NASA’s case for expanding the exploration of space. What does it take to work with a team that sends a person into orbit, a man to the moon, and vessels throughout the solar system?

**The Heart of Horror & Stephen King**

*Lauren Roy, Kenesha Williams, Paul Tremblay, Jack M. Haringa, Vincent O’Neil (M)*

Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel

The throne of the King of Horror seems more secure than ever, with recent releases including the novel *Sleeping Beauties* (with his son Owen), and movies based on his work including *The Dark Tower, It, Gerald’s Game*, and *1922*, plus TV series *The Mist* and *Mr. Mercedes* — as well as an anniversary reprint of *The Stand* plus a *Christine* video short and a collector’s DVD of *The Dead Zone*. Stephen King revitalized and sustained the horror genre through a rough period of redefinition and rebranding. What is it about his scary stories that’s so compelling? Why do his characters stand out? Which tales will keep our dark little hearts beating faster for years to come?

**Fan Fiction Is Fun!**

*Flourish Klink, E. Ardell, Gillian Daniels, M. C. DeMarco, Elise Sacchetti (M)*

Marina 4 · 60 min · Panel

Let’s face it: fan fiction is fun. Despite all the good/bad arguments for writing/not writing amateur (or at least, unpaid/unauthorized) fiction about characters from your favorite book/movie/TV show, an

extensive/enthusiastic community has grown up around this quirky genre. What is it about fan fiction that we love? (Besides the / (slash) stuff.) Why do we write it/read it? And where can we get some more?

---

**1:00 PM**

---

**Fractured Fairy Tales**

*Theodora Goss, Jack M. Haringa, Dana Cameron (M), J. Kathleen Cheney, Carrie Quinn*

Burroughs · 60 min · Panel

Perhaps the most piquant part of beloved animated TV series *The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle and Friends* (1959–1964) was the dry, sly, wry humor of its “Fractured Fairy Tales” segments. These managed to twist hoary stories into something sparkling new, adding biting satire with just a dash of horror. What’s the charm of these odd little gems? Do kids still watch them? Should they? What else (*Shrek*) has refreshingly revamped old fairy tales?

**The Original 1936 Flash Gordon: Planet of Adventure!**

*Movie Mike*

Carlton · 200 min · Film/TV/Media

Real 16mm Films with Movie Mike. This is Movie Mike’s new expanded feature, cut from all 13 chapters of the original serial — not the short theatrical or TV versions you may have seen. It tells the whole story in a little over 3 hours, and has never been shown before at any convention. Jump on Dr. Zarkov’s rocket and we’re off to Mongo, the planet of adventure, to battle Ming The Merciless! Meet winged hawkmen and visit their floating sky city. Become a slave shoveling radium into the atom furnaces. Enjoy invisibility, swordplay, and ray guns. Rescue Dale from a dire fate! See

dinosaurs and monsters, classic heroism and villainy, plus laughably crude special effects. With wonderful music, costumes, and props, lots of thrills and action, a silly script, and bad acting!

**Autographing: LJ Cohen, Daniel M. Kimmel, E.J. Stevens, Michael Swanwick**  
Galleria · 60 min · Autographing

**Kids' Art Show Tour**  
Galleria · 60 min · Children - DragonsLair

**Reading by Allen M Steele**  
Griffin · 30 min · Reading

**Guru of the Game Room Tournament**  
Harbor I · 300 min · Gaming  
Join the Boskone gaming tournament — and see if you have what it takes to be named the Guru of the Game Room!

**Long Live the Legion!**  
*Priscilla Olson*  
Harbor I · 60 min · Discussion Group  
Our yearly though increasingly forlorn salute to DC's Legion of Super-Heroes. Sigh. Despite several comics reboots over the years, looks like it's still dead — wait! Up in the TV sky! It's Supergirl — now with Brainiac 5 and Saturn Girl ... Please join us. We've got a Legion of stuff to talk about again!

**Kaffeeklatsch: Robert J. Sawyer**  
Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Kaffeeklatsch: Steve Berman**  
Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**The Fantasy Survival Guide**  
*Melanie Meadors (M), Steven Popkes, Craig Shaw Gardner, Elizabeth Bear, Vikki Ciaffone*  
Harbor II · 60 min · Panel  
Before you set out on that epic fantasy adventure, you should be properly prepared. Our panelists offer a list of "to dos" and "to don'ts" that might come in handy — before and during your epic quest through the wilds where mythic creatures and dangerous beings of yore

are said to still dwell. And, with a little luck, you may even return alive ...

**Guest of Honor Interview, Featuring Mary Robinette Kowal**

*Mary Robinette Kowal, Cady Coleman*  
Harbor III · 60 min · Interview  
Professional puppeteer; costumer; voice actor — Mary Robinette Kowal is a multitasking marvel. But she's here mostly as a Hugo-Award-winning SF/F author with a delightful gift for storytelling. Join us for Boskone's Guest of Honor hour, conducted by Mary's good friend (and former astronaut!) Cady Coleman.

**Concert: H Paul Shuch**  
Lewis · 30 min · Filk

**Remembering Alien Voices**  
*Nat Segaloff*  
Marina 1 · 60 min · Solo Talk  
In the mid-1990s, today's NESFA Press Guest Nat Segaloff started an SF audio book and live-performance production company — called Alien Voices — with John de Lancie and Leonard Nimoy. Their productions starred many of the two actors' fellow *Star Trek* performers. Now, Nat shares specially edited highlights that include rarely seen rehearsal videos. This exceptional presentation offers a unique look at adapting SF from the page to voice or video.

**Faith, Philosophy, and Religion in Speculative Fiction**  
*Rajnar Vajra, Kristin Janz, Janice Gelb (M), Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Inanna Arthen*  
Marina 2 · 60 min · Panel  
Resolved: science fiction, fantasy, and horror are perfect genres in which to explore ideas and philosophies, especially aspects of religion and faith. True? If so or not so, why? And what dangers do we face in creating new religions (\*cough\* Hubbard), or in these kinds of speculations generally?

**Writing for Children**

*Tui Sutherland, Bruce Coville, Sarah Jean Horwitz, Gregory Katsoulis (M), Michael Stearns*

Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel

The process you use in writing literature for children, and the elements you need to include, are different from those for YA, teen, or adult fiction. What are those elements? How do you adjust your style? And how do you avoid the ultimate mistake of talking down to a child?

**Mental Illness and Art: Can You Still Create If You're Cured?**

*Adam Stemple, Bob Eggleton, David McDonald, Julie Holderman, Hillary Monahan (M)*

Marina 4 · 60 min · Panel

Some maintain that mental illness can fuel artistic creativity; others say it's a hindrance. How do artists struggling with disturbances of the mind manage their illness and sustain their creative spirits? Our panelists share their experiences, interests, and inspirations.

---

**1:30 PM**

---

**Reading by Walter Hunt**

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

**Reading by Darlene Marshall**

Independence · 30 min · Reading

**Concert: Roberta Rogow**

Lewis · 30 min · Filk

---

**2:00 PM**

---

**The Golden Age Reconsidered**

*Fred Lerner, Allen M. Steele (M), Rob Greene, Ellen Asher, Paul Di Filippo*

Burroughs · 60 min · Panel

How well do Heinlein, Clarke, Asimov, and other Golden Age writers stand up today? Which of their ideas remain at the core of modern SF? What parts of their canon have faded? Why do they

continue to be pillars of the genre for some readers? Are they likely to retain that status as times change further?

**Autographing: Kristy Acevedo, Catherine Asaro, Walter H. Hunt, Craig Shaw Gardner**

Galleria · 60 min · Autographing

**Model Magic: Making Monsters**

*Lisa Hertel*

Galleria · 60 min · Children - DragonsLair  
Artist Lisa Hertel leads kids in a hands-on demo that is kid-friendly and kid-safe, as they create fantastical creatures made of clay.

**Knitting Circle**

*Edie Stern, Priscilla Olson*

Galleria · 60 min · Makers Space  
Let us feel each others' fiber....

**Reading by Vandana Singh**

*Vandana Singh*

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

**Kaffeeklatsch: Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Kaffeeklatsch: Marianne Plumridge**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Learn to Play: Wicked Apples**

*Brenda Noisieux*

Harbor I · 60 min · Gaming

Learn how to play Wicked Apples, the game of strategic chaos! This quick 15-20 minute experience is fun for veteran gamers and folks new to gaming alike. Wicked Apples was the winner of the 2016 Tabletop Audience Choice Award at the Boston Festival of Indie Games.

**Sex and Romance in Young Adult Fiction**

*Barry Goldblatt, Hillary Monahan, Tamora Pierce, Michael Stearns (M)*

Harbor II · 60 min · Panel

Starting with that talk about when a bird and a bee love each other very much, the most embarrassing topics in teenagerdom have got to be sex and romance. Just as awkward in fiction,

these issues demand special sensitivity when writing YA. Who's ready to read stories with sexual themes? How far is too far? What details are involving but not icky? And will gender diversity that's fine with 13-year-olds explode half the heads on the school board?

### Breaking the Laws of Magic

*Faye Ringel (M), Walter Jon Williams, Julie Holderman, Michael Swanwick, Clarence Young*

Harbor III · 60 min · Panel

Brandon Sanderson, in his *First Law of Magics*: "An author's ability to solve conflict with magic is DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL to how well the reader understands said magic." George R. R. Martin: "I want hints of the unknowable. I want awe and wonder. I want mystery. I want to discover but also be unsure of what I'm about to encounter. I guess that means I want magic!" Is it important to have a *system* of magic? Once you've defined a given magic system's limits, is it OK to break them?

### Reading by Kate Baker

Independence · 30 min · Reading

### Writing Filk

*Roberta Rogow, Benjamin Newman, Stephen Brinich, M. C. DeMarco (M)*

Lewis · 60 min · Panel

What does it take to write a song? Do you start with the music or the lyrics? What do you need to know?

### The Orville vs. Discovery

*Timothy Liebe, Christine Taylor-Butler, Suzanne Reynolds-Alpert (M), Robert Howard, Steve Davidson*

Marina 1 · 60 min · Panel

Each show has a vociferous fan base. Why do so few people like both? Is *Star Trek: Discovery* the heir to *Deep Space Nine*, or an abandonment of what makes *Trek, Trek*? Is *The Orville* an enjoyable homage to the *Star Trek* universe, or an

expensive excuse for Seth MacFarlane to cosplay James T. Kirk? (Or all of the above?) And what can we expect from these shows going forward?

### About Airships

*Jeffrey A. Carver, James Cambias, Frank Wu Marina 2 · 60 min · Panel*

Although fairly rare in science fiction since Verne and Burroughs, these fancy flyers have recently gotten a real lift from steampunk. What is an airship? How does it work? Is it really a practical form of travel? Our panelists float some fun facts about the design, mechanics, and sheer romance of the airships of SF and fantasy.

### Beyond Afrofuturism

*William Hayashi (M), Gerald L. Coleman, Kenneth Rogers Jr., E. Ardell, Jeff Carroll Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel*

Afrofuturism started as by definition an outsider movement. But like many subgenres of speculative fiction, it has had a direct impact on the development of the larger field. Where is Afrofuturism going? Which authors should we be watching as they branch out into other subgenres? Are Afrofuturistic stories now becoming seen simply as science fiction, fantasy, or horror?

### Myths and Legends in Urban Fantasy

*Kenessa Williams, Erin M. Hartshorn, Elaine Cunningham, James Moore (M), Beth Meacham*

Marina 4 · 60 min · Panel

Urban fantasy may focus on stories set within cities, but many of these tales come with some sort of mythology or legend at their core. What is it about the mix of ancient mythology and modern city that we find so interesting? How do we blend stories from our rural past into a contemporary cityscape without creating a hot mess?



**2:30 PM****Reading by Debra Doyle and James MacDonald**

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

**Reading by Darrell Schweitzer**

Independence · 30 min · Reading

**3:00 PM****Modern Marvels***Priscilla Olson (M), Karl Schroeder, Geary Gravel, Daniel P. Dern, Carrie Cuinn Burroughs* · 60 min · Panel

Our panelists consider their favorite gadgets, and list their Top 10 — including landmark examples from the past, as well as modern gadgets that are currently changing the future.

**Official Artist Art Show Tour***Marianne Plumridge*

Galleria - Art Show · 60 min · Docent Tour  
Join Boskone 55's Official Artist in the Art Show to view and discuss the work she has on display.

**Autographing: James Cambias, Dana Cameron, Leigh Perry (Toni Kelner), Fran Wilde**

Galleria · 60 min · Autographing

**Dragon Stories & Crafts With Tui Sutherland**

Galleria · 60 min · Children - DragonsLair  
Kids join Tui Sutherland to color dragon images, while she talks about the winged beasts and answers questions about writing.

**Reading by C. S. Cooney**

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

**Kaffeeklatsch: Elizabeth Bear**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Kaffeeklatsch: Vandana Singh**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Struggling With Your Writing***Jeanne Cavelos*

Harbor I · 60 min · Discussion Group

Join Jeanne Cavelos, editor and founder of the Odyssey Writing Workshop, as she sits down to discuss helpful tips and best practices for overcoming obstacles and getting back to writing.

**The Best Science Fictional Worlds***Christian Baines, J. Kathleen Cheney, Paul Di Filippo (M), Robert J. Sawyer, Daniel Hatch* Harbor II · 60 min · Panel

Star-spanning cultures laced together via nicely working warp drives, cities where teleportation handles everything from personal transport to sewage disposal, drunken arks where cerulean time runs sideways, resorts with molten tungsten rivers flowing lazily uphill past iced lemonade trees — these settings may all be, in fact, totally impossible. But they can still *seem* functional enough, within a well-written story. How? Why? And what are some of our favorite fantastic planets?

**The Magic of Historical Fantasies***Mary Robinette Kowal, Scott Lynch, Darlene Marshall (M), Beth Meacham, Walter Jon Williams*

Harbor III · 60 min · Panel

Fantasies set in the past are growing ever more popular. Why do we love stepping back in time and sprinkling a little magic into the past? Could these same stories be told in modern times, or would some of that magic be lost? And when changing the workings of the known world by adding magic, is it still important to keep historical details correct?

**Reading by Daniel Kimmel**

Independence · 30 min · Reading

**Enhancing Your Musical Performance***Gary Ehrlich, Edward L. Stauff, Mary Ellen Wessels*

Lewis · 60 min · Workshop

A workshop offering performance hints for aspiring musicians. Find out tips for

improving your singing, arranging songs, recruiting other musicians, and more. Experienced performers with tips to share are welcome.

### The State of the Universes

*Marianna Martin, Robert Howard, Jack M. Haringa, Errick Nunnally, Brenda Noiseux (M)*  
Marina 1 · 60 min · Panel

The Big Bang that set off the media explosion of the DC and Marvel Universes has continued to produce films, television shows, games, and comics at a near exponential rate. Is DC doing better? What's up with Marvel? From *Wonder Woman* to *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*, we'll dish on our favorites as well as the good, the bad, and the ugly released over the last year in our super universes.

### The Scientific Method in SF

*Genny Dazzo, Kristin Janz, Justin Key, Kaitlin R. Branch (M), Vincent Docherty*  
Marina 2 · 60 min · Panel

Scientists abound in science fiction. Do these characters behave like real scientists, the good and the bad? Which authors get it right as they present positive images of scientists, and depict the way they work? The "mad scientist" is a common type in our literature — but is that really the way scientists go wrong?

### Non-Genre Fiction That Inspires Us

*Tamora Pierce, Alexander Jablovkov, Theodora Goss, F. Brett Cox, Kenneth Schneyer (M)*  
Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel

We're always talking about icons such as Mary Shelley, Stephen King, J. R. R. Tolkien, and others who breathed air into our literary lungs — but what about non-genre fiction? Our panelists discuss some of their favorite authors from outside the SF/F/H field, who have inspired them as writers and readers.

### Supergirl's Sister

*Rob Greene (M), Vikki Ciaffone, Timothy Liebe, Muriel Dr. Mom*

Marina 4 · 60 min · Panel

LGBTQ characters on TV and film are often just sidekicks, and can tend to be one-dimensional. But a few feel like whole and complete people. One such TV standout: Alex Danvers, aka Supergirl's sister. What makes her character so well-crafted? Has the revelation of her sexuality changed her portrayal, or our perception of who she is? What other examples of strong LGBTQ characters come to mind?

---

**3:30 PM**

---

### Reading by Carlos Hernandez

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

### Reading by Walt Williams

Independence · 30 min · Reading

---

**4:00 PM**

---

### Hugo Award Recommendations:

#### Dramatic Presentations

*Bob Devney, Daniel M. Kimmel, Garen Daly, Deirdre Crimmins, Jim Mann (M)*

Burroughs · 60 min · Panel

What's the greatest stuff you saw last year? Join us to discuss 2017's best movies, TV shows, theatrical productions, and more in the worlds of science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Panelists and audience members share their favorites and discover new things to see. Let's find the hidden gems, and take notes for this year's Hugo Awards nominations ballots too — they're due in San Jose soon!

### Autographing: Gerald Coleman, Bruce Coville, Geary Gravel, Bracken MacLeod

Galleria · 60 min · Autographing

### **Kids Concert with Mary Ellen Wessels and Gary Ehrlich**

Galleria · 60 min · Children - DragonsLair

### **How to Build a Bookcase**

*Suzanne Palmer*

Galleria · 90 min · Makers Space

Got books? Need more space? Come see a live demonstration on how to build a bookcase.

### **Reading by Jane Yolen**

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

### **Kaffeeklatsch: Craig Miller**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

### **Kaffeeklatsch: Flourish Klink**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

### **Xenolinguistics**

Harbor I · 60 min · Discussion Group

What makes a language alien?

Conversely, what makes one human?

Topics include speech and other communication modes, rare types of grammars, and fictional alien languages.

### **Science Guest Interview, Featuring Catherine Asaro**

*Catherine Asaro, E. Ardell*

Harbor II · 60 min · Interview

Come get your geek on with Catherine Asaro, Boskone 55's Hal Clement Science Speaker. Catherine shares her experiences in theoretical chemical physics, as well as her work as a science teacher, coach for nationally ranked math teams, member of the governmental advisory group SIGMA, and Nebula-award-winning SF author.

### **Religious Characters in Fiction**

*Stephen P. Kelner Jr. (M), Max Gladstone, Darlene Marshall, James D. Macdonald*

Harbor III · 60 min · Panel

What challenges are involved in authentically depicting characters — perhaps like Russell's Emilio Sandoz, Pratchett's Brutha, Addison's Maia, or Wilson's Alif — for whom religious belief is important? Are SF/F/H

audiences accepting of these figures, or resistant? Is it easier to write characters who share your own beliefs, or more difficult (at least to do it well)?

### **Reading by John Chu**

Independence · 30 min · Reading

### **Editing Online Magazines**

*Kate Baker, Shahid Mahmud, Kenesha Williams, Julia Rios, Don Pizarro (M)*

Marina 1 · 60 min · Panel

Curating the content of any online periodical comes with its own special opportunities and challenges. Our experienced panelists share what it takes to pull an online magazine together — and how the process may differ from life on Planet Print. They'll also take a look at some of the newest and best zines now online.

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

*Tui Sutherland, Elise Sacchetti, Barry Goldblatt, Robert Howard (M), Josh Dahl*

Marina 2 · 60 min · Panel

From *Runaways* to *Ms. Marvel*, *Paper Girls*, and more, comics for young adults are booming. Let's look at some famously must-read YA comics, as well as publications just hitting the shelves that are not to be missed. What is it about YA comics that capture the imagination — especially of teen readers?

### **Clothing That Creates Character**

*Suford Lewis FN (M), Janet Catherine Johnston, Mary Robinette Kowal, J. Kathleen Cheney, Elizabeth Bear*

Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel

Characters don't wear costumes; they wear clothing. What's the right raiment for the right person? Think about the style statements made by James Bond, Brienne, Doctor Manhattan, Gandalf, Kip Russell, Josephus Miller, Offred, Diana Prince, Alexia Tarabotti, or Jane Vincent. Our fashionistas discuss some of spec fic's fashion faux pas, as well as

some truly ingenious choices of garments for our favorite fictional characters.

### **Ensemble Casts and Continuing Characters**

*E. C. Ambrose, Kenneth Schneyer, E.J. Stevens, Debra Doyle, Ginjer Buchanan (M)*  
Marina 4 · 60 min · Panel  
Some well-written spec fic features ensemble casts where the secondary characters are as interesting as the leads. What are the guidelines for creating great supporting roles? How do these people (or aliens, AIs, disembodied demons, etc.) fascinate despite less face time? Do they get more freedom to be themselves, while main characters must be all things to all audiences? Which secondaries deserve (or have received) their own spin-off stories?

---

### **4:30 PM**

---

#### **Reading by Karl Schroeder**

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

#### **Reading by Andrea Corbin**

Independence · 30 min · Reading

#### **Concert: Benjamin Newman**

Lewis · 30 min · Filk

---

### **5:00 PM**

---

#### **The Year in Astronomy and Physics**

*Mark L. Olson (M), Jeff Hecht, Catherine Asaro, Rajnar Vajra*  
Burroughs · 60 min · Panel  
An annual roundup of the latest research and discoveries in two sciences that matter. Our experts will share what's new and interesting, cutting-edge and speculative. From planets to particles, and beyond!

#### **Autographing: Jon Hunt, Scott Lynch, Tamora Pierce, Walter Jon Williams**

Galleria · 60 min · Autographing

#### **DragonsLair Is Closed for Dinner**

Galleria · 60 min · Children - DragonsLair

#### **Group Reading: Broad Universe**

*Heather Albano, LJ Cohen, E. C. Ambrose (M), Roberta Rogow*

Griffin · 60 min · Reading

Join members of Broad Universe — a nonprofit association dedicated to supporting, encouraging, and promoting female authors of science fiction, fantasy, and horror — as they read tidbits of works and works in progress. Celebrate 17 years of “Broads” with Elaine Isaak, Heather Albano, Roberta Rogow, LJ Cohen, and more!

#### **Kaffeeklatsch: Karl Schroeder**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

#### **Kaffeeklatsch: Michael Swanwick**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

#### **Governmental Structures in SF/F**

*Susan Jane Bigelow, Vandana Singh, Daniel Hatch (M), Nik Korpon, Timothy Liebe*  
Harbor II · 60 min · Panel

How do we construct systems of governance in SF/F literature, TV, and films? Why are so many of them imperial and/or totalitarian, or (even more likely) corporatocracies? Is there an ideal government? From the Federation Council to the Republic/Imperial Senate to Honor Harrington's Star Kingdom constitutional monarchy, are there any we'd actually want to *live* under? Can SF/F invent or inspire a better government?

#### **Electronic Evolution: Is Skynet Here Yet?**

*John P. Murphy, Jeanne Cavelos, John Chu, Jeffrey A. Carver, Allen M. Steele (M)*

Harbor III · 60 min · Panel

“Finding English inadequate, the AIs began communicating to each other in their own incomprehensible language.” So that happened. At Facebook last year ... However, the humans didn't actually

shut them down in a panic. Let's explain, and discuss the actual state of artificial intelligence development. Is AI's creating language a big step? In a right direction? (Like, self-directed evolution?) Also: What else is new? What's cool? What could happen soon? Never?

### Workshop: Writing Comics

*Josh Dahl*

Independence · 60 min · Workshop

Comics artist and author Josh Dahl gives a short workshop on the ins and outs of writing comics. This is not an in-depth session, but it will cover the high points and basics for those interested in learning what it takes. Sign-up is required.

### Song Circle: Dragons and Dragoons!

*Edward L. Stauff*

Lewis · 60 min · Filk

### Border of the Unknown

*Theodora Goss, Errick Nunnally (M), Trisha Woodlridge, Dana Cameron, Gerald L. Coleman*

Marina 1 · 60 min · Panel

Much fine fantastika involves crossing the boundary between the known and the unknown — especially that uneasy border between the village and the trees. Let's look at the long history of that great unknown, the enchanted forest. Why has it pushed and pulled at people's imaginations since ancient times? To find out, let's stroll away from safety and into the woods, as the liminal light fades and the shadows gather all under the boughs unbowed ...

### How to Get Rejected Redux

*Kate Baker, Steve Davidson (M), Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Ginjer Buchanan, John R. Douglas*

Marina 2 · 60 min · Panel

Last year, our panelists provided a down-and-dirty look at the best ways to get your manuscript tossed into a

publisher's round file. We traded a few stories and had a few laughs. Surely, there are even more ways to get roundly rejected by agents, editors, and publishers!

### Spiritual Animals

*Mihku Paul, Christopher Irvin (M), Tui Sutherland, Beth Meacham, E.J. Stevens*  
Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel

Animals in SF/F/H aren't all just lazy lap dogs or cozy cats. Dæmons and familiars, patronuses and spirit animals — these creatures often play subtly influential roles in the lives of main characters. Why do some animals assume such importance? Have their roles changed over time? Is over-anthropomorphizing a concern? Our panelists discuss our furry, feathered, and scaled friends in all of their glory.

### Frankenstein 200 Years Later

*John Langan (M), F. Brett Cox, Steve Berman, Faye Ringel, Bracken MacLeod*  
Marina 4 · 60 min · Panel

It's *still* alive! In 1818, Mary Shelley stitched together a bone-chilling tale of dread and science, and created a monster — whose humanity cut as deeply as Dr. Frankenstein's knife. This Promethean fiction has inspired authors, fans, and scientists ever since. (Though is it better remembered than read?) What challenges did Shelley face in bringing her story to print? What would she think of her effect on literature over the last two centuries? After all these years, let's find out what makes this tale tick.

### DragonsLair Is Closed for Dinner

Galleria · 60 min · Children - DragonsLair

---

**6:00 PM**

---

### Reading by Paul DiFilippo

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

**Kaffeeklatsch: Julia Rios**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Kaffeeklatsch: Craig Shaw Gardner**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**NMBR 9**

Harbor I · 120 min · Gaming

**Reading by Pete Hollmer**

Independence · 30 min · Reading

**Drones***H Paul Schuh*

Marina 1 · 60 min · Solo Talk

Drones are a growing part of life in the modern world. Paul Schuh takes us through what role they play (and may play in the future) in our society, the problems and benefits they provide, and the rules and regulations surrounding the operation of these high-flying devices.

**Jewish Havdalah Service**

Marina 2 · 60 min · Other

Service ending the Sabbath.

**What Good Is an Agent?**

*Joshua Bilmes, Barry Goldblatt, Richard Shealy, Erin M. Hartshorn (M), Hillary Monahan*

Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel

Everybody wants an agent — but why? What's the big deal? Sure they can help you make contacts with publishers, but is that their only purpose? What else can or should an agent do for you? How do you know when your agent isn't really working out? How do you transition between agents without burning bridges?

**6:15 PM****Cowboy Bebop**

Carlton · 100 min · Film/TV/Media

The futuristic misadventures and tragedies of an easygoing bounty hunter and his partners. (2001)

**6:30 PM****Tiptree Bake Sale @ Boskone***B. Diane Martin*

Galleria - Meetup Spot · 60 min · Event

The Boskone Bake Sale benefits the James Tiptree Jr. Award, an annual literary prize for speculative fiction that expands or explores our understanding of gender. The sale is held on Saturday from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (or until we sell all the food). Please consider bringing something to be sold: all non-refrigerated foods are welcome (particularly those that also suit dietary restrictions — e.g. gluten, lactose, egg-free). If you are thinking of donating, please drop off at 6:00 pm or during the sale itself! If you are planning to donate some treats, or if you would like to volunteer to help with the bake sale, please contact us at [bdiane@gmail.com](mailto:bdiane@gmail.com).

**Boskone Book Party**

*Nat Segaloff, Les Johnson, James Patrick Kelly, E. C. Ambrose, Jane Yolen, Robert V.S. Redick, Christopher Panaccia, Kenneth Rogers Jr., Walter H. Hunt, Adam Stemple, Kristy Acevedo, Christopher Irvin, Rob Greene*  
Galleria - Stage · 60 min · Event

Come join the fun at Boskone 55's Book Party — and meet the presses and authors who have new books coming out at the con! This is your chance to see what's new from writers you already love, as well as those you have yet to discover.

**6:30 PM****Munchkin**

Harbor I · 120 min · Gaming

**7:00 PM****Kids Open Programming**

Galleria · 60 min · Children - DragonsLair

**Kaffeeklatsch: Frank Wu**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**A Musical Tour of John Williams'****Classics on Cello**

Denise A. Gendron

Lewis · 60 min · Filk

Cellist Denise Gendron takes us on a musical tour of some of John Williams' most memorable movie tunes from *Star Wars* to *Jaws*, *ET*, and more!

**8:00 PM****Invaders from Mars (1953) — and More!**

Movie Mike

Carlton · 115 min · Film/TV/Media

16mm Films in the Evening with Movie Mike. Only the kid knows that they've landed and burrowed in behind the house. They've taken over his mommy and daddy and the police via brain control radio. It's a paranoid child's nightmare of alienation, directed by William Cameron Menzies, with Leif Erickson, Hillary Brooke, and little Jimmy Hunt. Milburn Stone (Doc from *Gunslinger*) is the tough old colonel who saves the day. Note the lovely stark effectiveness of the police station scene, and the brilliant use of stock military footage for epic effect. Don't miss the zippers on the backs of the huge Martian mutants as they shuffle through the underground tunnels of their secret base. And those "raygun-melted" tunnel walls are clusters of balloons: notice they stir in the breeze. Menzies excelled at design, and this film is beautifully composed and shot, with good props, sets, and costumes. This movie runs 78 minutes, so we'll add a condensed version of *This Island Earth* that includes the flying saucer trip, space war on the planet Metaluna, and that big insect mutant — all good stuff you will like.

**Kids Open Programming**

Galleria · 60 min · Children - DragonsLair

**Open Mic: Myths & Legends!**

Elaine Cunningham (M), Kenneth Schneyer (M), Lauren Roy, C. S. E. Cooney, Carlos Hernandez, Gabriel Erkard, E. Ardell, Benjamin Newman, Roberta Rogow, Don Pizarro, Trisha Wooldridge, Mary Ellen Wessels, Edward L. Stauff

Galleria - Stage · 60 min · Event

Live from Boskone: A special selection of tall tales as told by our program participants — plus audience members. All show off their open mic skills in the third annual Boskone Open Mic extravaganza. This year features the myths and legends of yesterday, today, and tomorrow! Each participant contributes his/her most legendary performance — a 5-minute story, poem, song, skit, interpretive dance, or whatever! *OPTIONAL*: For extra appeal, feel free to come *dressed* as your favorite mythic or legendary character.

The Rules: Boskone members are invited to join our participants in the open mic by signing up for one of the six open slots at the door to the event, which opens for sign-ups at 7:30 p.m. Each performer is given a firm 5-minute time limit (max), including setup time. So a quick transition between acts is key. Please no profanity: DragonsLair is within hearing distance.

**Kaffeeklatsch: Timothy Liebe**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Kaffeeklatsch: Brendan DuBois**

Harbor I · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Bang: The Dice Game**

Harbor I · 60 min · Gaming

**Saturday Night Special Event: Boskone Awards and Rapid-Fire Theater**

Bruce Coville, Gay Ellen Dennett, David G. Grubbs (M), Bob Kuhn, Laurie Mann, Mihku Paul, Michael Sharrow, Jane Yolen, Ginjer

*Buchanan, Fred Lerner, Tui Sutherland, Jen Gunnels, Erin Roberts, Christine Taylor-Butler, William Hayashi, Nat Segaloff, Daniel M. Kimmel*

Harbor II+III · 120 min · Event

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, an interview, a 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. 8:10 pm — "Fire in the Sky" chorale in honor of Jordin Kare.

8:10 p.m. — NESFA Awards

Presentation: The New England Science Fiction Association (NESFA) presents its annual Skylark and Gaughan Awards. The Skylark Award honors the work and personal qualities of an exceptional contributor to science fiction. The Gaughan Award is presented to a talented emerging artist. We will also be announcing the winner of the NESFA Short Story Contest. 8:40 p.m. — Special Interview: The Rapid-Fire Theater continues with a short interview, featuring bestselling children's author Tui Sutherland. 9:05 p.m. — What's My Name:

Panelists race against the clock in a science fictional guessing game that somewhat resembles "What's My Line?" as a panel of experts try to identify the characters being portrayed. 9:45 p.m. — Boskone Radio Play: Boskone's Rapid-Fire Theater comes to an out-of-this-world conclusion with a short adapted radio play by Nat Segaloff about humanity's first contact with aliens.

**Reading by Carter Roy (Michael Stearns)**  
Independence · 30 min · Reading

## **Beyond Pokemon Go: Writing For Augmented Reality Games**

*Heather Albano*

Marina 1 · 60 min · Solo Talk

Location-based augmented reality games are becoming increasingly popular in the mobile marketplace, and their unique structure offers new and exciting storytelling opportunities to writers and game designers alike. But AR games are not the first to incorporate the real world as a design element; live action roleplaying games have been doing this for decades. Veteran LARP designer Heather Albano will discuss how the best practices of live action design are being applied to early augmented reality games right now, and how game writers can leverage these design principles to create memorable (and successful!) AR games in the near future.

## **Farm to Table in Space**

*B. Diane Martin (M), David G. Shaw, Fran Wilde, Carrie Cuinn, Muriel Dr. Mom*

Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel

"Farm to table" is a modern social movement that promotes serving local food acquired directly from the farmer, but also encourages coming together and bonding over a meal. Fantasy often depicts these kinds of scenes, in taverns or mead halls: but what about science fiction? How does the mess hall on a spaceship compare to the warm, welcoming mead hall — or is something lost in translation?

---

**8:30 PM**

---

## **Reading by Kevin McLaughlin**

Independence · 30 min · Reading



**9:00 PM****Power Grid**

Harbor I · 180 min · Gaming

**Open Filking**

Lewis · 240 min · Filk

**"Until We Are Utterly Destroyed" — A Reading by Frank Wu**

Marina 1 · 60 min · Reading

Frank Wu presents "Until We Are Utterly Destroyed," a story coming out in *Analogue*. It will be an experience to remember!

**Soup to Nuts: The Life Cycle of a Book**

*Joshua Bilmes, Richard Shealy (M), Pete Hollmer, Susan Jane Bigelow, J. Kathleen Cheney*

Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel

What is the life cycle of a book, from completion to publication? Our panel of agents, editors, and authors share advice on everything from querying an agent or an editor to dealing with revision requests, reviewing the contract, maintaining the relationship between editor and agent, and more.

**9:15 PM****Group Reading: Noir at the Boskone Bar — Special Edition**

*Christopher Irvin (M), Errick Nunnally (M), Paul Tremblay, John Langan, Dana Cameron, Nik Korpon, Gillian Daniels, Bracken MacLeod, Leigh Perry*

Galleria - Stage · 90 min · Reading

Noir at the Boskone Bar is a special night of reading and fun with our noir, crime, mystery, and horror writers.

Hosted by Chris Irvin and Errick Nunnally.

**10:00 PM****Minneapolis Music Meet-up**

*Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Adam Stemple*

Burroughs · 60 min · Filk

In 2029, somewhere on the Mexican border, a worn-down, weary Logan cares for an ailing Professor X.

However, Logan's attempts to hide from the world and his legacy are upended when a young mutant arrives — pursued by dark forces.

**Logan**

Carlton · 137 min · Film/TV/Media

In 2029, somewhere on the Mexican border, a worn-down, weary Logan cares for an ailing Professor X.

However, Logan's attempts to hide from the world and his legacy are upended when a young mutant arrives — pursued by dark forces. (2017)

**SUNDAY**

February 18, 2018

**9:00 AM****Marble Ways and Legos**

Galleria · 60 min · Children - DragonsLair

**9:30 AM****Reading by Suzanne Palmer**

Independence · 30 min · Reading

**Flash Fiction Slam***Rob Greene (M), James Patrick Kelly, Shahid Mahmud, Vikki Ciaffone, Jen Gunnels*

Marina 4 · 90 min · Reading

Boskone's Flash Fiction Slam returns!

Be one of eleven (10) writers to

compete for the title of The Flash,

reading your own original fiction —

which must tell a complete tale within a

3-minute period. Our expert panel of

judges will score your work, and you

automatically lose 10 percent for going

over your 3-minute time. You may only

read your own work. The reader with

the top score wins! Sign up before the

con by sending an email to

program@boskone.org for one of eight

(8) reading slots on a first-come, first-

served basis. Or sign up onsite at

Program Ops in the Harbor Foyer for

one of three (3) at-con openings. A

waiting list will also be available there.

**10:00 AM****Hugo Award Recommendations: Written Works***Bob Devney (M), Jim Mann, Vincent Docherty Burroughs* · 60 min · Panel

What were your favorite SF/F/H novels,

novellas, novelettes, short stories,

related works, and graphic stories of

2017? Panelists and members share

their favorites and discover new things

to read. Let's find the hidden gems and

take notes for this year's Hugo Awards nominations ballots too — they're due in San Jose soon!

**Godzilla: Final Wars**

Carlton · 125 min · Film/TV/Media

The 50th-anniversary Godzilla film.

Godzilla travels around the world to

fight his old foes — plus a mysterious

new menace designated Monster X.

(2004)

**Tour of the Art Exhibit (II)***Joe Siclari, Edie Stern*

Galleria - Art Show · 60 min · Docent Tour

If you missed the first — this is your

chance to stroll around the special art

exhibit with its curators. You'll hit the

highlights with knowledgeable guides

who can indicate points of interest.

**Autographing: Kevin McLaughlin, James Moore, Robert V.S. Redick, Nat Segaloff**

Galleria · 60 min · Autographing

**Kaffeeklatsch: Joshua Bيلمes**

Galleria - Con Suite · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Kaffeeklatsch: Les Johnson**

Galleria - Con Suite · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Creating a Franken-Story***Kenesha Williams*

Galleria · 60 min · Children - DragonsLair

Kids work with author Kenesha

Williams as they create and stitch

together a scary original story.

**Reading by Ken Schneyer**

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

**Lords of Waterdeep**

Harbor I · 120 min · Gaming

**Life in Space***Stacey Berg, Cady Coleman, Mary Robinette Kowal*

Harbor II · 60 min · Dialog

What does it take to become an

astronaut? What's it like to live in

space? These questions and many more

will get answered by astronaut Cady

Coleman. Cady sits with science fiction

writers Mary Robinette Kowal and Stacey Berg, who ask her everything you ever wanted to know about life in space.

### Official Artist Interview with Marianne Plumridge

*Marianne Plumridge, Tim Szczesuil*

Harbor III · 60 min · Interview

Join Marianne Plumridge for a special discussion in which our Official Artist talks about the creative process, life, and art — including her own work, from Rocket Doodles, cosmic whales, and Dreamboats to Birds 'n' Bots and beyond.

### Reading by Lauren Roy

Independence · 30 min · Reading

### The History of Filk

*Mary Kay Kare, Stephen Brinich, Edward L. Stauff (M), Denise A. Gendron*

Lewis · 60 min · Filk

Filk: What is it? Where did it come from? Panelists share the history of science fiction's musical art form.

### The Forgotten Topics in YA Fiction

*Melanie Meadors (M), Gregory Katsoulis, Kenneth Rogers Jr., Fran Wilde, Carlos Hernandez*

Marina 1 · 60 min · Panel

Young adult fiction panels often focus on what makes a believable teenage character, young love, or great teen hero. But there's so much more to explore! What about stereotypical teen behavior? Villains? Reality versus fiction? Let's spread the net wide. This is our chance to dish on the topics that get the least airtime.

### Sound and Fury: Storytelling in Audio Drama

*Bruce Coville, Kate Baker, C. S. E. Cooney, Bob Kuhn (M), Timothy Liebe*

Marina 2 · 60 min · Panel

How do you tell a story when all you have is the sound of your voice? Learn tips and tricks for setting the scene,

showing action, and building character — all through music and sound effects!

### NESFA Reading Group: The Dark Apostle: Elisha Barber 1 by E. C. Ambrose

*Michael Sharrow (M), E. C. Ambrose*

Marina 3 · 60 min · Discussion Group

The NESFA Reading Group meets to discuss their next book of choice — *The Dark Apostle: Elisha Barber 1* by E. C. Ambrose. Join us for a conversation led by NESFA's Mike Sharrow; Boskone's own E.C. Ambrose will join the group halfway through for a Q&A. To participate, please read the book and come ready with your observations and questions.

---

**10:30 AM**

---

### Reading by Theodora Goss

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

### Reading by Max Gladstone

Independence · 30 min · Reading

---

**11:00 AM**

---

### Fantasy and Folklore in Shakespeare

*Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Greer Gilman, Jeanne Beckwith, Debra Doyle (M), Gillian Daniels*

Burroughs · 60 min · Panel

Shakespeare didn't just write histories, romances, and comedies. He was also a master at drawing on folk sources, and creating compelling fantasy fictions. Let's consider the fantastic side of Shakespeare: his characters, his stories, and the magic within his writing.

### Autographing: Robert J. Sawyer, Carter Roy (Michael Stearns), Allen M. Steele

Galleria · 60 min · Autographing

### Kaffeeklatsch: Nat Segaloff

Galleria - Con Suite · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

### Kaffeeklatsch: Beth Meacham

Galleria - Con Suite · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Deconstruct an Accordion!**

Galleria · 60 min · Children - DragonsLair  
 Help take apart an old accordion to see how it's constructed!

**Reading by Mary Robinette Kowal**

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

**Marketing Uphill**

*Melanie Meadors, Alexander Jablovkov (M), Suzanne Reynolds-Alpert, Joshua Bilmes, Craig Miller*  
 Harbor II · 60 min · Panel  
 Sometimes marketing for writers feels like walking uphill to school barefoot in the snow. Does it ever get easier? At what point is enough *enough* for you and your social network? What about live events? How much should you invest, and how do you measure the return? Our panelists share their experiences and tips for managing your marketing.

**Living With Climate Change**

*Vandana Singh, Vincent Docherty (M), Robert V.S. Redick, Les Johnson, Laurie Mann*  
 Harbor III · 60 min · Panel  
 The last year has seen an onslaught of floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, tornadoes, and more. Birds and mammals are altering their migration patterns. Insects, fish, and plants are showing up where they've not been seen before. It feels like an apocalyptic novel. But it's just what we get to live with, in an age of shifting global climate. Let's put efforts to reverse things aside. Without becoming too doomy or gloomy — with our natural world in flux, what can we expect next? How do we prepare for changes to come? What steps can we as individuals take to adjust to our changing world?

**Reading by John P Murphy**

Independence · 30 min · Reading

**Song Circle: Moldy Oldies**

*Stephen Brinich*  
 Lewis · 60 min · Filk

**The Visual Language of Art**

*Bob Eggleton, Marianne Plumridge, Reiko Murakami, Vincent Di Fate, Joe Siclari (M)*  
 Marina 1 · 60 min · Panel  
 A picture is worth a thousand words. Whether you're looking at a painting by Rembrandt van Rijn or by Boris Vallejo, it captures a moment of time and tells a story about it. Let's consider some of our favorite paintings — past and present, mainstream and speculative — to discuss what they say, how they say it, and why we love them.

**The Future of Work**

*Karl Schroeder, James Cambias, Mark L. Olson (M), Jeff Hecht, B. Diane Martin*  
 Marina 2 · 60 min · Panel  
 How has innovation — changing technologies, new digital platforms, advanced AIs — altered the fundamental nature of work? While humans may always have a place in the labor hierarchy, just where will we find ourselves on the food chain? Is there room for everyone? Specifically, how will technology eliminate current jobs and enable new ones?

**Horror and Humor**

*James Moore, Lauren Roy, Craig Shaw Gardner, Don Pizarro (M), Marianna Martin*  
 Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel  
 That's awfully funny! Horror and humor may be strange bedfellows, but the two genres can combine in surprisingly complementary ways. How can you best weave them together into a terribly amusing tale? And why do they work so well together?

**LGBTQ Elements in Speculative Fiction**

*Steve Berman (M), John Chu, Susan Jane Bigelow, Christian Baines, Julia Rios*  
 Marina 4 · 60 min · Panel

Where are all the LGBTQ characters in SF/F/H? They may exist — but are often relegated to secondary or background status. What can we do to elevate them to main characters? Our panelists cite some of the best LGBTQ speculative fictions being published, and what makes these pieces stand out. Generally, what authors and publishers should we be following?

---

### 11:30 AM

---

#### Reading by Fran Wilde

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

#### Reading by Julie Holderman

Independence · 30 min · Reading

---

### 12:00 NOON

---

#### Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler

*Jennifer Pelland (M), Vandana Singh, Kenesha Williams, Scott Lynch, Marshall Ryan Maresca*  
Burroughs · 60 min · Panel

Octavia Butler's prescient dystopian novel *Parable of the Sower* was written 25 years ago. Set in the 2020s, it presents a society beset by climate change, social and economic collapse, corporate greed, wealth inequality ... need we go on? What did Butler's masterpiece get right — and wrong? How do her beleaguered characters cope? And what can the novel teach us today?

#### Autographing: E. Ardell, John Langan, Christine Taylor-Butler

Galleria · 60 min · Autographing

#### Kaffeeklatsch: Walter John Williams

Galleria - Con Suite · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

#### Kaffeeklatsch: Hilary Monahan

Galleria - Con Suite · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

#### The Accordion Autopsy

*Geri Sullivan*

Galleria - Con Suite · 60 min · Discussion Group

Come join us for a discussion and dissection of an old accordion that has seen better days.

#### Magic Show for Kids

*Daniel P. Dern*

Galleria · 60 min · Children - DragonsLair

Daniel Dern brings back his

DragonsLair magic show for Boskone's children!

#### Comics and Cookies

*Josh Dahl, Brenda Noisieux*

Galleria - Meetup Spot · 60 min · Discussion Group

Bring your cookies and your favorite DC Rebirth comics, and chat with fellow fans about the new stories being told.

#### Reading by Geary Gravel

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

#### Lego Robotics Demo & Programming

*Michael Sharrow (M), Chris Ermenwein, Siavesh Safarizadeh, Matt Brown, Dan Gessel, Chenyu Lin, Karl Twelker*

Harbor I · 180 min · Event

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, we will build the project of your dreams. Guaranteed to destroy Jupiter! (Scale model of Jupiter not included.) Designed for members from age 10 to adult.

#### Ticket to Ride: Rails and Sails

Harbor I · 180 min · Gaming

#### Munchkin

Harbor I · 120 min · Gaming

**Everybody's a Critic. No, Really.**

*Fred Lerner (M), Deirdre Crimmins, David McDonald, Darrell Schweitzer, Gillian Daniels*  
Harbor II · 60 min · Panel

From Goodreads to Rotten Tomatoes to social media, a vast chatterverse of opinions instantly rates any story, book, movie, game, song, or con panel you might wish to experience. Where can you find the best reviews? How can you tell quickly if a given review is worthwhile? If you opine yourself, how can you make sure your own hot take stays cool?

**Songs for Themed Anthologies**

*Tom Easton, Julia Rios (M), Erin Underwood, Elaine Cunningham, Clarence Young*  
Harbor III · 60 min · Panel

The growing popularity of themed anthologies is creating new life for short fiction. Editing and writing for these collections, however, can be tricky. How do you find the right stories? To what extent do you edit? And what kind of anthology would we all like to see?

**Reading by Les Johnson**

Independence · 30 min · Reading

**Song Circle: Myths and Legends**

*Mary Ellen Wessels, Edward L. Stauff*  
Lewis · 60 min · Filk

**Dark Fantasy for Children/YA**

*Adam Stemple (M), Sarah Jean Horwitz, Tui Sutherland, Jane Yolen, Gabriel Erhard*  
Marina 1 · 60 min · Panel

How dark is too dark when it comes to dark fantasy and horror for younger readers? Is there an invisible line in the sand? Should we provide kids with more happy endings? And what draws them to these stories in the first place ... even when none of the characters are children?

**2001: A Space Odyssey by Arthur C. Clarke**

*William Hayashi, Robert J. Sawyer, Steven Popkes (M), Laurie Mann, Eric Van*

Marina 2 · 60 min · Panel

Fifty years ago, *2001: A Space Odyssey* stormed the screens and bookstores of the science fiction and science worlds. (Clarke's book and Stanley Kubrick's film were developed concurrently, based on Clarke's 1951 short story "The Sentinel"; both men worked at writing both; the movie was actually released first.) As icons of the genre, these works transformed the way people think about science fiction, space, AIs, and more. Where are we 50 years later? Is *2001* still the classic it was? Do the science and story still hold up? What did it tell us about our future, and are we there yet?

**Women Who Write Science Fiction**

*LJ Cohen, Victoria Sandbrook (M), Catherine Asaro, Erin Roberts, Marianna Martin*  
Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel

Mary Shelley, Leigh Brackett, Ursula K. Le Guin, Connie Willis, N. K. Jemisin — women have been in the thick of writing science fiction for a very long time. Let's discuss some of their landmark publications that captured our imagination. Why do we love these stories? What works should we look for the next time we're browsing the shelves?

**"Realistic" Hackers**

*John P. Murphy (M), Walt Williams, Dan Moren, Laurence Raphael Brothers, Brianna Wu*

Marina 4 · 60 min · Panel

Computer hackers are often depicted as genius young criminals who work in their parents' basements, as guys who are nonconforming loners, as sexy quirky girls who rock killer glasses. The truth is far more complex. Let's hack the hacker mythology, and debunk the creepy caricatures we see on TV and read about in books. Are there any good examples out there of hacker characters who are realistically portrayed?

---

**12:15 PM**


---

**Bubblegum Crisis (ep 2-4)**

Carlton · 92 min · Film/TV/Media

A female mercenary team, armed with unique power armor suits, battles the forces of the corrupt mega-corporation Genom in futuristic Tokyo. The episodes are entitled "Born to Kill," "Blow Up," and "Revenge Road."

---

**12:30 PM**


---

**Reading by Tamora Pierce**

Griffin · 30 min · Reading

**Reading by James Moore**

Independence · 30 min · Reading

---

**1:00 PM**


---

**Something Old/New/Borrowed/Blue**

*Fred Lerner, Paul Di Filippo, Geary Gravel, Edie Stern (M), Michael Swanwick*  
Burroughs · 60 min · Panel

Expand your to-be-read list, as well as your horizons. Our intrepid panelists will recommend a classic SF book, a current SF book, something brought in from outside SF that is a must-read — and, if they wish, something sexy as well!

**Autographing: Auston Habershaw, Christopher Panicia, Max Gladstone**

Galleria · 60 min · Autographing

**Kaffeeklatsch: Paul Tremblay**

Galleria - Con Suite · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Kaffeeklatsch: Jack Haringa**

Galleria - Con Suite · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch

**Afrofuturism Group Reading**

*William Hayashi (M), Kenesha Williams, Errick Nunnally, Christine Taylor-Butler, Clarence Young*

Griffin · 60 min · Reading

Boskone's Afrofuturism Reading features a wide selection of authors who

come together for this special group reading.

**Neil Gaiman Anniversary Reads**

*Jane Yolen, Justin Key, John Langan, Trisha Woodlridge, Bracken MacLeod (M)*

Harbor II · 60 min · Panel

It's a notable year for Neil Gaiman, with publication anniversaries for his engaging, ironic dark fantasies *The Graveyard Book* (10th) and *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* (5th) — plus from his lighter side, *Don't Panic: The Official Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Companion* (30th). Let's gab about his novels and stories, comics and characters, movies and TV adaptations and rock-star aura.

**Boskone Special Guest Talk by Craig Miller**

Harbor III · 60 min · Solo Talk

Join us for a fascinating talk by Craig Miller, a well-known and respected writer/producer with over 300 credits to his name. Craig will discuss his experiences in the film industry, and treat us to a Lucasfilm look at the production of *Star Wars* and *The Empire Strikes Back*.

**Turning a Short Story Into a Play***Jeanne Beckwith*

Independence · 60 min · Discussion Group

Got a story that would be great on the stage? Don't know where to start? Step through the process with playwright Jeanne Beckwith in this Boskone workshop on how to turn a short story into a stage play. Participants are welcome to bring a short story of their choice to the workshop.

**Concert: Gary Ehrlich**

Lewis · 30 min · Filk

**Building BIG Structures in Space***Les Johnson*

Marina 1 · 60 min · Solo Talk

When we think of our future in space, we need to think big. After all, space

elevators, space solar power stations, and kilometer-scale solar sails aren't exactly small. How will we build these big space structures? And do the materials we will need exist today? (Have you heard of graphene? If not, then you will!)

### Weird Science and Odd Inventions

*James Cambias, John P. Murphy (M), Julie C. Day, David G. Shaw, Jeff Carroll*

Marina 2 · 60 min · Panel

Sometimes ideas sound better in your head! Scientific discovery and invention can take strange and unexpected turns when creativity is let loose. Fortunately, some of the end products turn out to be truly remarkable. Our panelists discuss their favorite unusual inventions and surprising scientific discoveries.

### Igniting the STEM Literary Movement

*J. Kathleen Cheney, Catherine Asaro, Kaitlin R. Branch, Brenda Noiseux (M), Cady Coleman*

Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel

There's a growing focus in education on bringing more science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) into the classroom. Stories with strong STEM components are being written for children and young adults. But how do we attract younger readers' attention, and build greater interest in this literature? Participants share their ideas and invite suggestions from the audience.

### Resurrecting Superman

*Dan Moren (M), Marianna Martin, David McDonald, Stephen P. Kelner Jr., Robert Howard*

Marina 4 · 60 min · Panel

How do you kill a Kryptonian so he stays dead? Odds are, we're not about to find out ... While dead may be dead in at least a few cases, most comic book / movie superheroes have an uncanny knack for survival — thanks to their power of super takesies-backsies. What

do life and death really mean in a genre where The End is probably just A New Beginning?

---

**1:30 PM**

---

**Concert: Mary Ellen Wessels & Ed Stauff**  
Lewis · 30 min · Filk

---

**2:00 PM**

---

### Ending a Series

*E. C. Ambrose (M), Marshall Ryan Maresca, Debra Doyle, Walter H. Hunt, Sarah Smith Burroughs* · 60 min · Panel

After writing three novels (or more!), how do you pull all your loose ends together to provide a satisfying conclusion? What are readers looking for in the final book of a series? And if you leave openings for another triptych or two, can it really feel like The End?

### Autographing: Sarah Jean Horwitz, Christopher Irvin, Vandana Singh

Galleria · 60 min · Autographing

### Tea With Mary (Kaffeeklatsch: Mary Robinette Kowal)

Galleria - Con Suite · 60 min · Kaffeeklatsch  
Join Boskone's Guest of Honor for tea in the Con Suite. (Requires Kaffeeklatsch sign-up at Program Ops in the Harbor Foyer.)

### Group Reading: Stonecoast MFA

*James Patrick Kelly (M), Theodora Goss (M), Julie C. Day, Kaitlin R. Branch, Mihku Paul, E. Ardell*

Griffin · 60 min · Reading

Come hear the literary stylings of the Stonecoast MFA alumni, students, and faculty who have come together for this special group reading at Boskone.

### Field Medicine in a Fantasy World

*James D. Macdonald, LJ Cohen (M), Kristin Janz, Kevin McLaughlin, Christopher Paniccia*  
Harbor III · 60 min · Panel

After fighting orcs or falling into a ravine, you can come out with more



than cuts and bruises. Yet without modern medicine, our fantasy heroes are often left to their own devices to stitch themselves back together. What tips and tricks should they know? What nearby items — plants, herbs, spyderwebs — might be helpful? But also: why isn't there tons more toothache, child mortality, and gangrene in Fantasielande?

**Reading by Robert V.S. Redick**  
Independence · 30 min · Reading

**Song Circle: Parody**  
Gary Ehrlich  
Lewis · 60 min · Filk

**Name That Tune: Movie Scenes**  
*Vincent Docherty (M), Tim Szczesuil, Denise A. Gendron*  
Marina 1 · 60 min · Game Show  
Music is a critical component in creating mood or building tension for movie moments, and may help to make a scene memorable or iconic. Can we identify a scene simply by playing its music? Let's find out with this special edition of Name That Tune. The audience guesses the movie scene, using clues and music to name it — then the panel discusses the scene, the music, and why they work so well together.

**Comics, the Hugo Awards, and the Future**  
*Brenda Noisieux (M), Jackie Kamlot, Josh Dahl, James Bacon*

Marina 2 · 60 min · Panel  
Consider comics and their place in the Hugo Awards. How's the Hugo for Best Graphic Story working out? As tales from comics take over TV and movies, is one award enough? Let's discuss the pros and cons of it all. And if this were a comic, what happens in the next exciting issue?

**Fan Power and TV**  
*Janice Gelb (M), Genny Dazzo, Suford Lewis FN, Steve Davidson, Flourish Klink*

Marina 3 · 60 min · Panel  
When fans band together, it can be a powerful thing. After *Sense8* was canceled, the internet exploded with plaudits, protests, and petitions. Result: the network added a special 2-hour series finale. Let's discuss the keys to successful fan-led revivals of television shows. What makes them successful? How do we let the networks know what we want, and that we mean business?

**Great Villains in Kids' SF/F**  
*Tui Sutherland, Bruce Coville, Carlos Hernandez, Melanie Meadors (M), Tamora Pierce*

Marina 4 · 60 min · Panel  
From Sauron to Voldemort, the Grinch to the White Witch to the Dane Twins, Mrs. Coulter to President Snow to Mayor Prentiss — what kind of characters do children and young adults truly love to hate? Are there limits to showing real evil, or can kids take more than we think? How obvious do we get: if there's a mustache, must it be twirled?

---

**2:30 PM**

---

**Reading by Gabriel Erhard**  
Independence · 30 min · Reading

---

**3:00 PM**

---

**Feedback Session**  
*Jim Mann, Erin Underwood, Gay Ellen Dennett, Richard Duffy*  
Burroughs · 60 min · Panel  
This con is over, people. (Except for Dead Dog Filking — and of course teardown, where we'd love to have your help!) But we're already working on Boskone 56. Help us get a good head start with reports on what went right (or wrong) this time, and how to achieve perfection next year.

**MASSFILC Business Meeting**

Lewis · 20 min · Filk

The (usually brief) monthly business meeting of MASSFILC, the greater Boston area's local filk club.

**3:30 PM**

**Dead Dog Open Singing**

Lewis · 100 min · Filk

Come share songs to close out the convention! Science-fictional or fantastic topics may predominate, but all songs are welcome. Come to sing or just to listen.

**Ursula K. Le Guin Memory Book**

**SATURDAY 10:00 AM-6:00 PM  
IN THE GALLERIA - MAKER'S SPACE**

Come to the Maker's Space in the Galleria on Saturday, February 17, 2018 between 10:00 am-6:00 pm to write your message in memory of Ursula K. Le Guin. The memory book will be shared with her family after the convention.



# Hotel Maps

