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HELMUTH: The Boskone Newsletter

Special edition for past and current Boskone members.

Vol 58, Issue 2

Wednesday

November 18, 2020



Boskone 58 Community Check-In!

Dear Boskone Community,



This version of Helmuth is longer than usual because we have a number of updates to share.

NESFA is excited to announce that Boskone 58 will be held online as a virtual three-day convention, starting in the afternoon on Friday, February 12 at 5:00 pm (U.S. Eastern Standard Time) and running through Sunday, February 14, with recorded program items will be available for playback through the end of February 2021.

We would like to offer special thanks to everyone who participated in reCONvene last August, NESFA's virtual test convention that allowed us to get experienced in the virtual con arena in case we needed to take Boskone virtual. Again, thank you! Your thoughts, advice, and responses will have a direct impact on virtual Boskone 58's programming, logistics, and design.

We are pleased to announce our update Guest List for virtual Boskone 58 this year.

- **Joe Abercrombie** - Guest of Honor
- **Julie Dillon** - Official Artist
- **Sheree Renée Thomas** - Special Guest
- **Marc Gunn** - Musical Guest
- **Ursula Vernon** - NESFA Press Guest
- **Mike Brotherton & Christian Ready** - Hal Clement Science Speakers

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**GO VIRTUAL WITH US!
REGISTER FOR BOSKONE
58**



Memberships: \$25

[Buy a virtual membership.](#)

Ty

**Join us on Social Media
#Boskone**



Follow us on Twitter

While we wish we could continue in-person, we must think of the health and well-being of our community. We hope you are able to join us online for a fantastic event, and we hope this allows old friends who have been away from Boskone to return! To that end, here are some important registration updates:

- [Memberships for virtual Boskone 58](#) have been reduced to \$25 per person and are now available online.
- Purchased full price memberships and earned rollover memberships for the in-person Boskone 58 convention will be rolled over to Boskone 59. (Due to the discounted virtual price, we thought this was the fairest solution for members.)
- Life Members and former Guests will continue receiving memberships to every Boskone, including virtual Boskone 58.
- Please contact registration@boskone.org if you have questions or if you need to request a change to your membership status.

As usual, programming will include a full range of activities that feature a wide selection of program participants who come together to create the high quality program that you have come to know and love from Boskone.

We appreciate your support, your imaginations, and your company as we gather as a virtual community in February 2021. Purchase your membership for virtual Boskone 58 today, and we will see you there!

Erin Underwood
Chair, Boskone 58

Gay Ellen Dennett
President, NESFA

[Visit the Boskone 58 Website.](#)

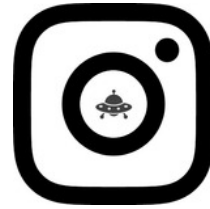
EARLY PROGRAM PARTICIPANT LIST

Help us welcome some of today's most exciting authors and artists in science fiction to Virtual Boskone 58. Here's a sneak peek at the list since we are still inviting and confirming this year's program participants.

- Linda D. Addison
- Guy Consolmagno
- Bruce Coville
- Cory Doctorow
- Sarah Beth Durst
- Donato Giancola
- Max Gladstone



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Visit us on Instagram

- Christopher Golden
- Andrea Hairston
- Joe Hill
- Nancy Holder
- Justina Ireland
- Tim Lebbon
- Kwame Mbali
- Garth Nix
- Gillian Redfearn
- Rebecca Roanhorse
- Karl Schroeder
- Jarvis Sheffield
- Vandana Singh
- Charles Stross
- Tade Thompson
- Adrian Tchaikovsky
- Paul Tremblay
- Carrie Vaughn
- Fran Wild
- Jane Yolen

- and many more!

[See the full list of virtual Boskone 58 speakers.](#)

BUY YOUR VIRTUAL BOSKONE 58 MEMBERSHIP!

Virtual Boskone 58 is happening over 3 days, February 12-14, 2021 in a single sign on event platform. Program timing is based on U.S. Eastern Time, but the schedule covers morning, afternoon, evening and nighttime activities, and almost of our program items will be recorded for later viewing. This time zone friendly format, along with our embedded chat rooms, are designed for people all around the world to join us this year at virtual Boskone 58.

Virtual BOSKONE 58
Memberships:
\$25.00



What does your membership include?

- 3 days of Boskone's top-notch programming, over 100 program items to choose from!
- Discussion with top authors, scientists, artists, and creators in the science fiction, fantasy, horror, and tech research fields.
- Never miss a panel! Access to recorded panels is available through the end of February 2021.*
- Online social spaces to connect with friends and like-minded fans.

- Access to individual chat rooms on each page and a site-wide chat channel.
- Ability to personalize your profile and connect with other members.
- Invitation to attend the New England Science Fiction Association's online awards ceremony.

*Most, but not all, program items will be recorded for later viewing.

[Purchase your Boskone membership today!](#)

INCOME TRANSPARENCY FOR BOSKONE 58

Boskone is an all-volunteer organized event. Our team works hard, volunteering countless hours of their time, to help keep convention costs as low as possible for our members. Even without a physical location, there are still costs to hosting a virtual convention.

Here are some of the critical expenses your membership helps to cover:

- Expanded features in our event management platform, which includes scheduling, event management, virtual dealer/fan tables, art show space, and registration tools.
- Increased number of software licenses for staff who need access to the event management platform.
- AV costs for paid Zoom rooms and webinars.
- Closed captioning services.
- Video storage for OnDemand program video playback of recorded programming.
- Credit card processing fees for memberships.
- Marketing, promotion, and design.
- Awards for our annual awards ceremony.
- Guest thank you gifts.
- Email newsletter and communications software.

Any profits generated by virtual Boskone 58 memberships will be applied to future in-person Boskonos to help with costs such as American Sign Language expenses, our New Voices Fund, and other critical expenses that will help to modernize and sustain Boskone in the future.

[Purchase your Boskone membership today!](#)

ONLINE CONVENTION FORMAT - *What to Expect*

Here is a quick list of bulleted highlights to give you a better sense of what to expect, with the caveat that some of these items are still in process:

- A single sign on event site for interacting with each other and the convention.
- Embedded chat within each page.
- A global chat option that follows you around the convention.
- An expanded Souvenir Book, PDF only (with reduced advertising rates!)

- Access to the event site 24 hours before the start of Boskone and through the end of February 2021 so that you can view all of the recorded program items.
- We will not be using Discord.
- Each program item will have a unique chat panel that will be active during the program item and will exist after it ends for members to continue the conversation.
- Our virtual program rooms will be named after our real-life program rooms at the Westin.
- The event website will include virtual tables for Dealers, Artists, Fan Tables, and Sponsors.
- You won't have to travel to/from Boskone during a blizzard.
- The food lines are shorter in your own kitchen.
- Your creature comforts, and your creatures!, are within arm's reach during the convention.

We are also working on updating our Code of Conduct as well as our Access Policy for our online members, which you can [review on the website](#).

These are the bulk of our format changes for virtual Boskone 58, and there will be more additions coming. We will continue sharing new information with our community through the Helmut email newsletter, website blog posts, and social media updates.

[Visit the Boskone 58 Website.](#)

ADVERTISE IN THE SOUVENIR BOOK!

Virtual Boskone 58 is producing a full color, expanded virtual Souvenir Book, available only in PDF. The virtual Souvenir Book is a great way to get your books, events, and groups in front of an audience who loves speculative fiction. This wonderful virtual souvenir will be available on the Boskone 58 website and emailed to our members.

We've also added two new incentives for advertisers. 1) Understanding the challenging times for our community, we are passing along the savings of having a non-printed book by offering advertising rates at reduced costs. 2) All advertisers in the virtual Souvenir Book will also be given a Sponsor Table/Page ([see advertising and sponsor info](#)) on the Boskone 58 event platform at no additional charge!



If you have questions about the Virtual Boskone 58 Souvenir Book, please contact boskone-ads@boskone.org.

[Advertise in the Virtual Boskone 58 Souvenir Book.](#)

DEALERS, ARTISTS, FANS & SPONSORS!

The Virtual Boskone 58 event site includes Sponsor and Exhibit sections that feature pages (aka tables) for dealers, artists, publishers, fans, and advertisers to reserve space for the low cost of \$10 per table. Our virtual Exhibit and Sponsor Tables can incorporate the following options:

- A Boskone volunteer to help set-up your page
- A graphic logo
- Descriptive text
- Images
- Live links
- Social media and contact information
- Videos
- Live chat

Advertising in the Souvenir Book is now available ([see website](#)), and information about the Dealers Tables, Art Show Tables, and Fan Tables will be available on the [Venue page of the Boskone 58 website](#) within the next week.

NOTE: Advertisers receive a Sponsor Table at no charge, and Fan Tables are complimentary for groups that qualify. Please contact info@boskone.org for more information and check out the Venue page on the website for additional details.

[Visit the Boskone Venue Page for more information.](#)

VOLUNTEER FOR BOSKONE 58!

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

- Monitoring Zoom Rooms.
- Acting as an "in room" tech to help moderators.
- Blog posts and other writing.
- Data entry.
- Ad sales.
- Image design.
- And more!

If you're interested in being a virtual Boskone 58 volunteer, please fill out our [Volunteer Form](#).

[Visit the Boskone 58 Volunteer Page.](#)

LET'S GET TOGETHER!

We look forward to seeing you online at Boskone 58 in February 2021.

To learn more about the convention, please visit [Boskone 58's website](#) and be sure to also review our [Code of Conduct](#). If you have any questions, please contact us at info@boskone.org.

* * *

Helmuth, Boskone's official Newsletter, is edited by Erin Underwood. Please send news/photos to helmuth@boskone.org.

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Boskone® is brought to you by NESFA®, the [New England Science Fiction Association](#). NESFA, founded in 1967, is one of the oldest science fiction clubs in New England.

* Boskone 58 will take place online in 2021. *

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