



ARISIA

2020



Cadwell Turnbull

Writer Guest of Honor

Kristina Carroll

Artist Guest of Honor

Arthur Chu

Fan Guest of Honor

January 17 - 20, 2020

WESTIN WATERFRONT HOTEL



ARISIA

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WRITER GUEST OF HONOR

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ARTIST GUEST OF HONOR
23-30 COLOR ART PORTFOLIO

January 17 - 20, 2020

WESTIN WATERFRONT HOTEL



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From the Convention Chair

We take this moment to acknowledge that we come together on the unceded ancestral land of the Massachusetts people. To celebrate and speculate on other presents, other futures, other pasts, we must be informed and aware of the context we gather in. We pay respects to and honor with gratitude the traditional stewards of this land, past and present.

Welcome! It's been quite a journey getting to Arisia 2020. The Con Chair team and I would like to thank you for sticking with us. If this is your first Arisia, welcome, and I hope you have a fantastic time!

Arisia and its community have been important parts of my life ever since I moved to Boston, and I'm so honored and grateful to have had the opportunity to helm this convention. To me, Arisia is a place for fans of all sorts to come together. The only thing we ask is for everyone to treat each other with dignity and respect. Our attendees are multifaceted people, and Arisia does its best to recognize and celebrate this.

Science fiction, fantasy, and everything we call "speculative fiction" has always been as much about exploring who we are as humans as it has been about robots and dragons and other worlds. If, as Carl Sagan said, "We are a way for the universe to know itself," then speculative fiction is a way for us to know ourselves, and by knowing, evolve. I like to think the current evolution in speculative fiction—the increased prominence of non-White, non-Western, non-Anglophonic writers, the rise of new viewpoints—is a necessary step in the growth of fandom as a culture. Some people may think that "Science Fiction/Speculative Fiction" and "Identity" are two opposing forces—that one cannot enjoy a story about warships and robots and distant planets if one is also thinking about what it means to be a person who is discriminated against, or struggling with where they fit in the world.

My hope for Arisia is that it shows the power of "and." There can be stories about aliens AND community, as in our Writer Guest of Honor Cadwell Turnbull's book *The Lesson*. There can be room for people who know Arisia well, like our Artist Guest of Honor Kristina Carroll, who's won awards at Arisia for her art, and for people like our Fan Guest of Honor, Arthur Chu, who may not have been to Arisia before, but has heard about it and its community of fans.

After three decades, Arisia has gone through a lot of changes to keep up with the times. The one constant is the sense of community, joy, and connection that meeting like-minded people can bring. I extend my warmest welcome to you and hope that, whether this be your first or thirty-first Arisia, that you find that sense this weekend.

Thank you,

Diana Hsu
Convention Chair, Arisia 2020



BOSKONE 57

Feb 14 – 16, 2020

Join us at New England's longest -
running science fiction convention.

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Kim Stanley Robinson
YOUNG ADULT FICTION GUEST
Holly Black
OFFICIAL ARTIST
Eric Wilkerson
MUSICAL GUEST
Cheshire Moon
HAL CLEMENT SCIENCE SPEAKER
Jon Singer
NESFA PRESS GUEST
Jim Burns

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

More than 150 participants, including:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Laurence Raphael Brothers | Kelly Link |
| David B. Coe/ D.B. Jackson | Scott Lynch |
| Gerald L. Coleman | Bracken MacLeod |
| C. S. E. Cooney | Dr Jonathan McDowell |
| Bruce Coville | Steve Miller |
| Mary Crowell | Reiko Murakami |
| David Anthony Durham | Dan Novy |
| Bob Eggleton | Robert V.S. Redick |
| Jeffrey Ford | Wade Roush |
| Esther Friesner | Ruth Sanderson |
| Theodora Goss | Karl Schroeder |
| Charlaine Harris | David Seeley |
| Patrick Nielsen Hayden | Melinda Snodgrass |
| Teresa Nielsen Hayden | Edward Stauff |
| Grady Hendrix | Tui Sutherland |
| Carlos Hernandez | Michael Swanwick |
| Nick Kaufmann | Christine Taylor-Butler |
| John Kessel | Paul Tremblay |
| Nicole Givens Kurtz | Martha Wells |
| John Langan | Walter Jon Williams |
| Sharon Lee | Jane Yolen |

CONVENTION MEMBERSHIP

FULL WEEKEND RATES

- Adult: \$60
- Active Military: \$50*
- Young Adult (ages 18-25): \$35*
- Child (ages 5-17): \$25*
- Kid-in-Tow: \$0

*(ID may be required)

Day Passes are available.

The Boskone 57 memberships rates are available through January 21, 2020. After that, the rates will increase.

THE BOSKONE HOTEL

Westin Boston Waterfront
425 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02210

ROOM RATES:

Single/Double/Triple/Quad Rooms:
\$159 per night*
boskone.org/hotel

*Plus 14.45% tax. Our hotel rates are good through January 21, 2020, or until the block sells out.



From the Arisia President

Thank you, everyone!

I mean everyone here. You, in particular, the person reading these words right at this moment. Thank you for being part of our community, even—especially—if you are brand new to it.

Thank you for bringing your interests and your fandom to this big gathering of fandoms we call Arisia. It wouldn't be the same without you.

Thank you for participating in all the program items, hallway conversations, parties, dances, feedback sessions, volunteer opportunities, social media threads, and other ways of interacting with the thousands of other fandoms that other people have brought to the convention. Your perspective is part of the magic that we all build here.

Thank you for reading and abiding by the Code of Conduct, printed on page 29 of this book. And thank you for helping to hold Arisia to those standards.

Thank you for your consideration for the hotel workers without whom there'd be no place for the convention to happen. It's not only for the hard work they do. Tipping and treating them well is good for the goodwill and the spirit of generosity that the convention needs to survive.

Thank you for your kindness to our volunteers. A fulfilling volunteer experience is important for Arisia's survival and you can make the difference, whether you're in line for an event or helping to make it happen.

Thank you for your self-care. Remember to eat, and sleep, and resist the temptation to overdo it. Your experience will be better for it, and that will make the whole convention better.

But most of all, thank you for coming. By being here you are supporting the community that is Arisia. And that benefits us all.

Nicholas "phi" Sheckman
President, Arisia Inc.
president@arisia.org



Convention Committee and Staff



CON CHAIR

Con Chair: Diana Hsu

Meeting Scribe: Lisa Hertel

Assistant Con Chair: Ellie Younger

Con Chair Advisor: Rachel Silber

Chief of Staff: Dale Meyer-Curley

CON CHAIR DIRECT REPORTS

Application IT

Con Chair Special Projects

Convention Treasurer

Convention Treasurer: Kelly Fabijanic

Diversity Committee

Diversity Committee: Anna Bradley, Jaime Garmendia, Etana, Aran H., Jade, Rachel Silber, & Kris "Nchanter" Snyder

Documentation Team

Documentation: Daniel R. Abraham

Documentation Committee: Sol Houser

Incident Response Team (IRT)

IRT Lead: Jonathan Mendoza

IRT Deputy: Kris "Nchanter" Snyder

IRT Managers: Christopher Flynn, Paul Kominers, Kim Riek

IRT General Staff: Vivian Abraham, Melissa Kaplan, Jesi Lipp, Wil McMMain, Oriana Ott, Sarah Touns, Heather Urbanski, Dmitri Zagidulin

Convention Website

Team Lead: Sybil Shearin

Advisor to Web: Alan Wexelblat

Backbone Lead: Justin du Coeur

Database Lead: Gail Terman

Drupal Designer: Leslie Pocklington

Guidebook Lead: Jim Van Zandt

Web IT: Mike Tatroe, Ben Levy

COMMUNICATIONS

Division Head: Etana

Progress Reports: Jess Steytler

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Photographer's Assistant: Kat Baker

Newsletter Area Head: Marc Ebuña

Assistant Area Head: Joy Mosenfelder

Press Liaison: Justin du Coeur

Sign Shop Area Head: Xopher Halftongue

Sign Shop Assistant Area Head: Marc Ebuña

Sign Shop Staff: Susan Dubin, Melissa Kaplan, Peter Kukolich, Brad Smith

Sign Kiosk Setup: Delbert Cleland

Wayfinding Signage Master: Ruth

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Division Head: James Boggie

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Events Liaisons: Louis, Redbeard, Mike Rasnick, Phoebe Roberts, Cate Schneiderman, James Wolf

Martial Arts Area Head: Mark Millman

MASQUERADE

Masquerade Director: James Hinsey

Staff: Suli Isaacs, Roberta Moore

Masquerade Table: Suli Isaacs, Roberta Moore

MC: Antonia Pugliese

Stage Manager: Mike Rafferty

Presentation Judges: Carol Salemi, Jamila Sisco, Carly Monsen

Presentation Judges Clerk: Suli Isaacs

Workmanship Judges: Lillian Fehler, Madeleine Schmuck

Workmanship Judges' Clerk: Roberta Moore

Repair Table Manager: Arisia Cosplay Repair

Head Ninja: Ann Catelli

Backstage Pirate: Greykell Dutton

Official Photographer: Derek Kouyoumijian

Masquerade Halftime Entertainment: Ashley Trix and the WZRDS

EXHIBITS

Division Head: Benjamin Levy

Art Show

Art Show Directors: Megan Lewis and Julia Austein

Build Chief: Rex Powell

Bag Check: Annie Schapira

Checkin/Checkout: Mike S., Fabrisse ter Brugge

Door Dragon: Richard S.

Head Cashier: Andrea Senchy

Lighting Chiefs: Ellen Blackburn, Lenny Foner
Mail-In/Mail-Out: Eyal Sagi
Setup/Teardown: Claire Apricot
General Art Show Staff & Runtime Crew:
Joni Dashoff, Lisa M. Goldstein, Rickland Powell,
Harvey R.
Creators' Corner Liaison: Liana Hertel
(Formerly Artist/Author Alley)

Dealers

Dealers' Liaison: Ed Trachtenberg
Assistant Dealer Liaison: Sabina Fecteau
Tax ID Czar: Mieke Citroen

Projected Media

Video Coordinator: Mike Kerpan
Assistants: Mike Rasnick and Mark Rzeszutek

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Division Head: Tom Traina
Con Suite Co-Area Heads: Danielle LaRose, Nicholas Sitar
Con Suite Staff: Joel Gould, Larry Nelson
Dead Dog Staff: Liz Zitzow
Green Room/Staff Den: Kara Hurvitz, Swati Joshi, Annie Schapira
Quartermaster: Austin Noto-Moniz

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Tabletop Gaming Assistant Area Head: William Mui
Tabletop Game Room Staff: Brandy Renduels
Video Games Area Head: Gail Terman

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Assistant Guest of Honor Division Head: Jacqui Bee
Liaison to Writer Guest of Honor: Jacqui Bee
Liaison to Fan Guests of Honor: Michelle Wexelblat
Liaison to Artist Guest of Honor: Michelle Wexelblat
Ninja Helper: Jess Steytler
At-Con Staff: Nick Brown

HOTEL LIAISON

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Assistant Division Head, Con Spaces: Matt Ringel
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Kimberly Sward, Tikva
Innkeeper Area Head: Nikki Roman
Party Czar: Jenn Koerber

MEMBER SERVICES

Division Head: Jenne Foronjy
Access Team Heads: Bill Thomasson, Marc Brunco
Otherwise/Con or Bust Bake Sale: B. Diane Martin
Blood Mobile Liaison (Blood Drive): John Hodges
Coat Check: Linda Brennan & MJ Spagone
Coat Check Staff: Linda Brennan, Darrell Brown,
Greykell Dutton, Barb Jewell, MJ Spagone
Food Trucks: Jude Shabry
Info Desk: Kristen Page
Info Desk Staff: Jan Dumas, Diane Rosenburg,
Jean Rossner
Photo Booth: Melissa Sims
Photo Booth Staff: Kat Falcione, Melissa Sims,
Cass Travers
Cosplay Repair Station: Melissa Schuman
Cosplay Repair Station Staff: Dale Miller,
Joanne Bruno-Miller, Mandi Jean Marcotte, Mieke Citroen

PROGRAMMING

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Assistant Division Heads: Ilene Tatroe and Ed McGonagle
Advisor: Nchanter
Programming Staff (Pre-Con): Aran H., Ann M. Thomas
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Assistant Track Manager: Izzy Peskowitz
Communities: Program Staff
Cosplay & Costuming: Milo Martinez
Fan Interest: Jesi Lipp
Gaming: Ed McGonagle
Literature: Inanna Arthen
Media: Dan Toland
Meetups: Matthew McComb
Music: Jeremy Kessler
Assistant: Angela Kessler
Reconciliation: Wendee Abramo
Science: David Shaw
Assistant: Mark Amidon
Workshops: Inanna Arthen
Writing: Morgan Crooks
Program Nexus Manager: April Kingston
Nexus Staff: Tammy Coxen, Sidney Hackney, Melissa Honig, Daniel Miller, Monia, Naomi Sipple, Kayleigh Tatroe, Ann Thomas

PUBLICATIONS

Division Head: Alex Morgan
Souvenir Book Layout: Kate Wechsler
Family Friendly Guide: Beth Kevles



REGISTRATION

Division Head: Melia B Vaden
Assistant Division Head: Brooks Harrelson
Registration Managers: Jennifer Fitzsimmons-Gauger, Heather Cougar
At-Con Tech Lead: Mike T.
Comps Boss: See Division Head
At-Con Staff: Priscilla Ballou, Jesse Cox, Jenne Foronjy, Jude H. Lisa Holsberg, Lenore Jones, David Ludwig, Danielle Reese, Laurel Richman, Mary Stock, Kelly Vaden

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Assistant Division Head: Sarah Kerrigan
Inter-Division Liaison Officer: Grace Taverna

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The Watch Area Heads (formerly Security): Jon Breindel, Ed McGonagle
Watch Overnight Area Head: Chelsea Alvarez
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Watch IRT Liaison: Zelda
Watch Staff: Wayne Armstrong, Eddie Asencios, Rachel Corbett, Jay Crandall, Elias Farah, Liz Finni, Loren Golubic-Campbell, Damien Harris, Ari Huy, Henry Roma, Lina Pardo, Mariah Jones, Jen Kruh, Rob Rabito, Matt Ryan, Kyle Salvaggio, RL Schild, Jason Tan, Lousi Telez, Hunter Thompson

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Team Arisia Services Advisor: Mike Sprague
Volunteers Area Head: Erik Meyer-Curley
Space Pilot Program Area Head: Allison Feldhusen
BARCC Coordinator: Rachel Silber
Duck Hunt Coordinator: Sherene Raisbeck
Ribbons: Sharon Sbarsky
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Logistics Area Head: Lisa Hertel
Logistics Assistant Area Head: Kylie Selkirk
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IT Support Assistant Area Head: Mike Tatroe
IT Staff: Elliott Mitchell
Ops Desk Area Head: Todd Cooper
Ops Desk Manager: Cr McDonough
Ops Desk Staff: Michael Rasnick

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Assistant to the Technical Director: Mieke Citroen
Program AV: Scott Scarlett Kluger
Tech Rental Inventory: Mieke Citroen
Master Electrician: Brendon Chetwynd
Power Crew Chief: Lowell
Drape Crew Chief: Covert Beach
Scaffolding Crew Chief: Covert Beach
Video Recording: George Yazbeck
Mrs. Hawking TD: Bernie Gabin
General Tech Staff: Gabriello A-A, Covert Beach, D Keith Brezinsky, H. Severino, Kevin K Wiley, Kylie Selkirk, Lowell, Micha Rieser, Michael Bergman, Mike Rafferty, Ruthie, Sandy "Pink" Sutherland, seph, Yoni, biancawren

YOUTH SERVICES

Division Head: Aimee Bouchard
Fast Track (Children's Programming): Ian Rose
FT Front Desk: Sara Brosnan
FT Quartermaster: Michael Schneider
Teen Lounge: Susan Fabijanic, Matan Kruskal

Writer Guest of Honor

Cadwell Turnbull



Kenneth Schneyer

To work with Cadwell Turnbull, Lord of Utopia, Protector of Werewolves, Tutor of the New Age, is to become an optimist despite oneself. His fiction imagines better futures and people who care for one another more robustly than our era of dystopian spec fic usually sees. When he critiques your work, he often asks you to consider other ways of thinking and being, outside not merely your own box but the box of the culture in which you were raised—what if this story had taken place not in the trenches of dog-eat-dog capitalism but in a community of friends who have each other’s backs? When he speaks of writing as a profession, he proposes that wordsmiths share their artistic control, their public credit, and their revenues, a mutually supportive family of creatives. And if you agree with none of this, he is still unflaggingly kind and supportive, finding the best in the work of his colleagues and imagining how it could rise even higher. And yet he is just beginning; what a wild ride we are in for.

Sarah Smith

What is Cadwell Turnbull’s best book so far? Several friends and fans respond:

No doubt about it: *Silenced*. A near-future book, set on Turnbull’s home, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and on the U.S. mainland, during the debate about statehood for the Virgin Islands. Xenophobic and white supremacist flags are flying, revolution is in the air, when suddenly every voice of entrenched privilege in the whole debate is—silenced. Call-in radio is crickets. The House of Representatives becomes a gathering of 435 Marcel Marceaus. Characters get calls from unknown numbers, but when they pick up, nobody’s there. A certain disgraced ex-President loses not only his voice, but the use of his thumbs.

Bliss? Not from Cadwell Turnbull. He’s the master of the messy, the poet of activists. Surprising people lose their voices. Ordinary central characters have suddenly been given an uninterrupted place to speak, but may not know what they’ll say. The powerful are silenced in the world, but they can still shout at us, the readers. Everybody talks. Narrative voices scream, stammer, hesitate, sneer, cry, collapse into themselves, re-form.

And what they end up saying, and doing, is a shocking, inevitable surprise even to themselves.

Highly recommended.

(Cadwell Turnbull, *Silenced*, Blackstone Publishing, April 2022)

James L. Cambias

A Lesser-Known Work by Cadwell Turnbull

While Cadwell Turnbull is best known for his science fiction and fantasy novels, my personal favorite among



his books is neither. *Watergut Road* was his fifth book, and tends to get forgotten among his more famous works. It's a simple yet absolutely riveting story of two families, the Kingdoms and the Roulets, who live in a working-class community on the island of St. Thomas. It's an affectionate—but unflinchingly honest—picture of island life, far from the pricey resorts and time-shares. The central character, Griff Kingdom, describes himself as an “Internet Entrepreneur” and is obsessed with escape to his personal Shangri-La of Seattle. His never-quite-fiancée Michelle Roulet is torn between Griff and her family. Meanwhile life swirls around them, and St. Thomas itself keeps stealing the spotlight. Cadwell uses the science-fictional technique of mentioning without explaining to let the reader build his or her own understanding of the island, and the inhabitants of *Watergut Road*.

Steven Popkes

Press release, 6/30/2008, Turnbull Family Trust

The Turnbull Prize for Literary Action was created in the latter half of the twenty first century. It was founded by Cadwell Turnbull using the funds granted him when he won the Nobel Prize.

The Prize's directive is not to reward literary excellence *per se*. Turnbull felt there were already many prizes for that. Instead, the directive is to reward literary support of authors by authors wherever and in whatever form it appeared. Thus, we have in the ranks of awardees, the founder of the Kinshasa Young Writer's Program. The co-creator of the Basque Language Singer Scholarship. The director of the Aino Storytelling Endowment. Writers of all stripes helping other writers of all stripes.

This year's winner is Aki Chatterjee, who won the Jnanpith Award for *The Roof Over Our Heads*, a retelling of Parzifal as a Bengali folk tale in modern Kolkata. Ms. Chatterjee founded the Mayabundar Center for Spoken Arts.

In Turnbull's own words, “It is not enough to merely do good work. We must encourage others to do good work as well.”



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The Lesson (*Excerpt*)

by Cadwell Turnbull

Frenchtown lay close to the water, right on Charlotte Amalie Harbor. Jackson could smell the sea, strong in the air, as he walked down the row of restaurants on his way to Sandy's. He passed Rum Shandy, hearing laughter from the people inside, and the swell of the music from the speakers. Pie Whole was quiet from the outside, but the smell of fresh dough greeted him.

Cars lined the street, packed tight together. Even on a quiet night, it was hard to find parking in Frenchtown. Jackson had gotten lucky and found a spot against the Griffith Ballpark fence. As he passed other cars, he looked inside the ballpark, where a group of expats were kicking around a soccer ball. A blond-haired guy with long legs shot the ball high into the air. A stout brunette girl with strong thighs and pronounced calf muscles whipped down the field in pursuit, spitting up dirt as she ran. On the bleachers, Jackson could see a few island boys sitting, lighting up, the smoke curling up from the ends of their blunts. The palm trees on the far side of the field swayed like dancers in the night breeze.

Sandy's was only a two-minute walk from Bella Blu, but Jackson took his sweet time getting there. He pushed open one of the double doors, and the sound of lively chatter greeted him. Sandy's was a dive compared to Bella Blu, but it had a homey feel that made it much more inviting. Clever sayings and old-timey photos of St. Thomas hung on the walls. "Warning," said a sign in big, bold letters. "The consumption of alcohol may cause pregnancy." "No trespassing," said another. "Violators will be shot. Survivors will be shot again." A crocodile skull dangled from the ceiling. Jackson had no idea of its authenticity. In the back were two pool tables, which almost always had people playing on them. Tonight was no exception.

The chairs that curved around the U-shaped bar were empty except for an older white man at one end, and a younger-looking woman at the other. The bartender was busy pouring drinks for a couple who stood near the door.

Jackson watched the woman on the far end of the bar. She had her dreadlocks pulled back into a ponytail of sorts, the thick knots falling behind her like the dormant limbs of some many-tentacled sea monster. She looked sullen but at ease, a Greenie in one hand. Even from where he sat, he could see those piercing light-brown eyes that seemed to glow faintly in the bar's low light. Her skin was dark like Jackson's, but it gleamed as if she were some goddess who had stepped into the world of men only the day before and had not yet begun to age. The softness of a child, the physique of a woman. Her black tank top exposed arms corded with muscles.

Seeing her powerful arms, Jackson finally considered the prospect of losing his head. He felt the skin of his neck go taut, could almost feel her hands on him, the flesh tearing as easily as bread. He knew that the Ynaa were powerful and not opposed to harming humans, and he recognized the same self-assuredness, the same discreet threat, in the woman across the bar. Just like other Ynaa he had glimpsed on island, she carried herself with the promise of violence. But no one mistook Mera for just any Ynaa. No other Ynaa fascinated and terrified the islanders the way she did.

At the moment, most of the people in Sandy's seemed at ease with the ambassador's presence, but Jackson knew better. He knew what hid under the smiles and conversation: the same quiet terror that was making his legs shake as he took his seat at the bar. He ordered a Greenie, and the bartender slid him a long-necked bottle of Heineken, cold and sweating with a little foam peeking from its lip.

Jackson let it settle and then took a swig while giving the ambassador quick glances. Soon, he gave up all his ambitions, measuring himself against the intimidating creature and finding that he was not up to the task. There would be no confrontation, no revelations this night. His sane mind had prevailed.

Sandy's had tables all around. Most, but not all, were empty. The couple at the bar had gone into the back room to watch a group of older men play pool, but a gang of young people were talking loudly at a corner



booth. Every now and then, one of them looked in the ambassador's direction. Another couple ate their dinner quietly at the other end of the room, behind the ambassador's back. They, too, kept their eye on her, sneaking furtive glances.

The older white man smiled in Jackson's direction, and Jackson recognized the dirty-blond hair and missing teeth. He was a friend of the bar's owner. Jackson used to come into Sandy's a lot when he was teaching at Charlotte. The man was always here then, chatting up the owner, an older white woman with a loud voice and a warm smile, whose name actually was Sandy. She had lived on island most of her life.

The white man lifted his glass to Jackson. "Ain't see you in here in a while," he said in the island lilt.

Jackson smiled. The man was either a local Frenchie, which wouldn't be surprising here in Frenchtown, or an expat who had lived here long enough to pick up the talk. Jackson figured it was the latter, since he could detect a bit of awkwardness in the way the words rolled off the man's tongue.

"Yeah, it been a long while," Jackson said. "Been busier lately with all that been going on."

The man nodded and glanced at the ambassador. Jackson nodded back, assuming that the glance was intentional. The man tilted his head and smiled big, revealing a mostly complete set of teeth. Then he returned to his drink. Jackson quietly finished his beer and ordered two more.

After the third Heineken, he switched back to a rum and Coke. Without meaning to, he continued his careful observation of the ambassador.

"Another drink?" the bartender asked the ambassador. He was white and definitely an expat but had been working at Sandy's for several years now. He had a laid-back disposition that Jackson liked. And he seemed completely at home with the ambassador, which impressed Jackson.

The ambassador looked up at the bartender, smiled, and said, "Yes, give me another one."

The bartender nodded.

Most other Ynaa could not pull off an act like this. Even in their human skin, they couldn't be mistaken for the real thing. They were too slow, too jerky in their movements. Not the ambassador. She could pass for an islander if only her face weren't so infamous.

The bartender gave Mera the Greenie, and she held it in her hand as if to drink, but then put down the bottle. Jackson watched her do this, looking for something that would give her away, reveal what she truly was. He didn't realize she had turned her eyes to him until it was too late.

He felt cold dread move through him before his body reacted, and then he quickly averted his eyes. He felt the seconds tick by as he fixed his attention on a painting above the heads of the dining couple behind Mera. He waited. After some time, when he couldn't take it anymore, he allowed himself a quick glance at her. She was still watching him, with no expression at all. Something in her gaze caught him. He had stared into her eyes and turned to stone. Ants crawled up his back, and he was powerless to stop them. The world around him disappeared into those eyes.

Before he screamed, she pulled her attention away, releasing him. As if nothing had happened at all, she returned to her drink, staring into the middle distance between them, going back to whatever thoughts were occupying her mind.

Jackson felt hot behind the ears. He looked around, embarrassed. No one was looking at him, but the room was quiet.

He found a conspiracy in that silence. Perhaps he had drunk too much, but something broke in him then. His heart thumped with panicked rage, and the urge flooded back into him, filling all the spaces his terror had left. He wanted to run into traffic, to tip over a cliff, to slide the knife against flesh to watch it bleed. He heard Aubrey's voice in the back of his mind, begging him not to. And he found himself arguing with the voice, shouting back against it.

She had embarrassed him. And she knew she had done so. It was a very human thing to do—too human. How dare she! Who did she think she was? It was their Earth, not hers, not the Ynaa's. Who gave her the right to be here? Who gave her the right to deceive them all?

And who are you to lecture me now that you've left me? I loved you and you left me.

The words came out easily, a continuation of the argument in his head. "You been here a while, haven't you?" he asked, the question loud enough for everyone at the bar to hear.

Mera turned her eyes and head slowly this time to look at him. Not quite normal. Not quite human. It was a deception. He knew the truth.

"You been on Earth for centuries," he said, pressing on.

The bartender stopped polishing the glass in his hand. The older white man perked up, and the couple at the near table swung their attention Jackson's way. The background pop rock music seemed louder now since even the young people at the corner booth had stopped talking.

As if in answer, Mera got up and took a hundred-dollar bill out of her purse and put it on the bar, the movement so calm that Jackson shrank back in his seat, afraid of what would come. She smiled graciously at the bartender and moved slowly toward Jackson's side of the bar. His body tensed, his heart thumping hard and fast. He closed his eyes, listening to the soft footsteps approach. He could feel her closeness as she walked behind his chair. He waited in that tense silence for what felt like a long time.

But nothing happened.

When he opened his eyes, she was already headed toward the door, her back to him. Before he understood what he was doing, he got up from his chair. He rushed toward her, reaching out and grabbing her by the arm.

"Wait," he said.

She was careful when she turned. It was graceful. Slow. So human now. So painfully human. When she spoke, it was quiet, a secret for only the two of them.

"You can go back," she said, her eyes never leaving his. "You can take your hands off me and drink your beer. And I'll leave in peace. Nothing else will happen."

Jackson's eyes were wide. His body shook. Nothing about how she said this was odd at all. It was gentle. But he felt all the hairs on the back of his neck stand up. A chill slid all the way down to his legs. He let go.

"Good night," she said, and left.

The room sat in silence for a few seconds longer. Then murmuring crept back into the space. Soon, talking, though hushed, had resumed. Jackson had no difficulty guessing the subject of that talk. He returned to his chair and sat back down, staring forward, too afraid to leave.

Quietly he drank two more beers, his head low and shoulders high, sweat trickling down from his armpits. When the conversation in the bar felt as though it had returned to its normal tenor, he paid his bill and slipped out, the voices trailing behind him like a thunderstorm at sea.

Excerpted from *The Lesson* by Cadwell Turnbull. This excerpt is published here courtesy of the author and Blackstone Publishing and should not be reprinted without their permission.



Bodies

by Cadwell Turnbull

Matthew's head ached. His ears rung. It took him a moment to catch his breath and another to remember where he was. The hospital.

His room was dark, a faint light emanating from the hallway. It must have been the middle of the night; he couldn't hear anyone.

Matthew lay there and let his eyes focus. He began to make out the shadowed walls and ceiling of his hospital room, the black blotches of vision giving way to concrete lines and shapes.

He turned to look at his bedside table, trying to push through the sharp pain in his neck and behind his eyes. His cell phone wasn't there. Matthew could not remember where it was. Had Layla taken it?

Adjacent to his was another bed, obscured by a privacy curtain. Matthew could not remember if the bed was occupied.

He listened for breathing. His head throbbed with his heartbeat. If there was someone in the bed next to his, he could not hear them. He slowly sat up in the bed. He sighed and waited a moment for more energy to come to his limbs and then he swung his feet out of the bed and onto the floor. The linoleum was cold; flecks of dust shifted under his feet. Then he got up and walked to the bathroom. He peed with the door open, washed his hands and then dragged his weak body back to bed where he committed to staring up at the ceiling.

"How young are you?" asked a voice from behind the privacy curtain.

Matthew didn't say anything at first. His brain was working in slow motion. He felt dizzy. "Sorry," Matthew said finally. "Didn't know you were here."

"How young are you?" asked the voice again. It was a man's voice. It had the rasp of old age.

"Twenty-one," Matthew said.

"Very young," said the man. "And with a functional prostrate too." The man laughed and then coughed violently. "This cough," he groaned. "I'm supposed to be under observation."

The man said "supposed to be" with clear sarcasm.

Schneider hospital was the only one on St. Thomas: five floors for an island of fifty thousand. Worse, the hospital was always understaffed. There was likely only one nurse on this floor. In the morning he'd use the hospital phone and call Layla and she would take him home, but for tonight, Matthew was stuck in the same forgotten hole as this man.

Matthew could hear the man shift a little in his bed. "How old are you?" Matthew asked.

"Old," said the man. "Eighty-five this time around."

Matthew couldn't get the man's meaning. He tried to think through the words but he felt foggy. "I'm sorry?" he said.

"Why are you in here?" the man asked.

"Car crash," Matthew said. His girlfriend Layla had rushed him to the hospital. And left him evidently. Matthew could not remember the details.

The man must have lost interest because he didn't say anything. Matthew still couldn't hear his breathing. How can a man cough, but not breathe?

“My name is Matthew,” he said. “What’s yours?”

Nothing. For at least a minute. The man could have fallen back to sleep. Or worse.

“Come here,” the man said finally. The directive was as low as a whisper, but Matthew had heard it clearly, like it was right in his ears. “Come here,” the man said again.

Matthew sat up on his bed again, staring at the partition. That corner of the room was harder to make out than his side. No light from the hallway reached it, and the outside was completely black. Matthew still felt the lingering effects of the crash, his head pulverized from the punch of the air-bag, his neck tight from whip-lash, his throat scratched raw from the retching.

Matthew got up and took a few hesitant steps towards the man’s bed and then stopped, losing his courage.

“It’s a secret,” the man said. “A very good one.”

Matthew had no interest in secrets. He just wanted a name. And not even that. He just wanted to know that the man wasn’t dead.

Matthew thought to call the nurse. But what would he say?

“Come on,” the man ordered.

Matthew took a few more steps forward. The curtain was so close he could touch it and pull it away in an instant to reveal whatever damaged body lay beyond it. Matthew could hear nothing behind the curtain. No beeps of machines. No coughing. The silence seemed to spread; he could feel the pressure of it, wrapping around him.

Matthew touched his fingers to the fabric, ran his fingertips along the rough fiber. He slowly pulled back the curtain.

He could only make out black blotches and the outline of a body that he couldn’t yet fully define. He waited for his eyes to acclimate.

When they finally did, it revealed a frail old man with dark skin. Matthew couldn’t be sure how dark.

“I’m dying,” the man said. “You should watch.”

Matthew said nothing at the strange request.

“I’ve been stuck here for so long. I wonder where I’ll be going this time.”

“Where have you been before?” Matthew asked.

“Everywhere. Every time. I’m a tangled web.”

Matthew felt all the air rush out the room. It made an audible pop, like a cork being pulled from a sealed bottle. Matthew tried to breathe but there was nothing to take in. Instead he tried to hold in what little air he had. The weakly defined outline of the body on the bed began to shift, and then it wasn’t on the bed at all, hovering just above it. There was another pop and the man’s body arched upwards like it would snap in two at the waist. Small beads of light escaped from all the dark corners of the man’s body and filled the space above him. The body looked overexposed, all harsh light and shadows. The little specks of light formed a body of its own: arms, legs, a head, a mouth that opened to reveal a tongue of stars. And then the body dispersed, light spreading through Matthew, through the walls, through the glass windows, and out into the world.

And then it was over. The room returned to what it was. Matthew could breathe again, though his breath felt hot in his lungs. He stumbled back to his bed and crawled in. His skin prickled with static at the touch of the thin hospital sheets. Except for the memory, there was no evidence that anything had occurred. Matthew had not even gotten a good look; he would not be able to recognize the man. He didn’t even know the man’s name.



Tomorrow the hospital staff would come in and re-move the body. They'd cover it from head to toe and roll it out of the room and to the elevator and down to the basement and onto a cold slab of metal and slide it into its own little drawer so that it can later be cut open and placed in a box and buried. And Mat-thew would go home.

Matthew wondered where the man was now—in what world and in what time. Matthew felt his own body keenly, his blood cycling through his veins and arteries, his concussed brain swimming in fluid, his breath flowing into and out of the branching fingers of bronchioles and alveoli.

One day Matthew too would die, his body a pile of dead matter. And then what? He could only hope for his own tangled web.



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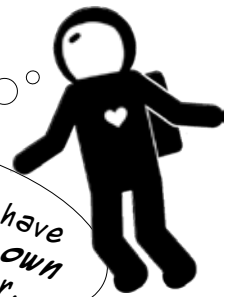
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I want help terraforming Mars!



Mommy, WHY can't we go faster than light?



Guess I'll have to build my own transporter...

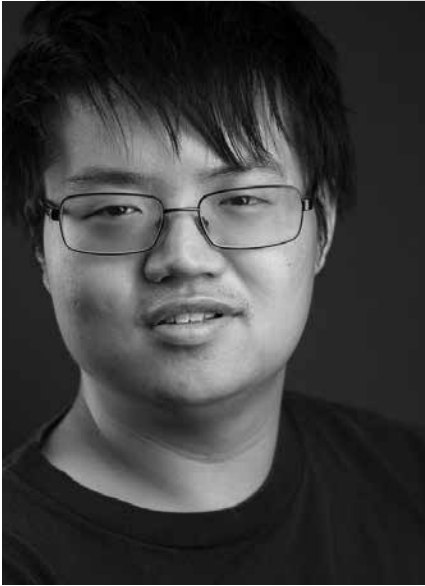
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Fan Guest of Honor

Arthur Chu



Sometimes you need to be loud.

When the noise of the crowd is too great, and there are people being trampled underfoot, the voice that cuts through the rumble, telling people to stop what they're doing and pay attention, can avert tragedy. It can stop a crisis in its tracks. It can save lives.

Arthur Chu has never been afraid of being that loud voice. Even when standing up and speaking out turns him into a lightning rod for the darkest trolls of that hellpit we call the Internet, he has been fearless, even relentless, in defending the marginalized—the silenced—against those who would stampede over their boundaries, rights and feelings.

His willingness to be a biting fly, stinging the flanks of patriarchy, white supremacy, and sexual and gender intolerance has made him enemies in all the right places, and sealed his status as an ally who is both aware of his privilege as an educated straight male, and willing to hone that privilege into a weapon against itself.

SF fandom as an enterprise bends towards pluralism—it consists after all of a thousand thousand tribes who define themselves by their passion for bodies of work that represent outspiraling curiosity, boundless self-expression, and a vast diversity of ideas, cultural contacts, and identities. One would think that this means misogyny, racism, homophobia, and transphobia would be scarce within fan communities.

But fandom is also a microcosm of society, and we have seen in our era how easy it is for the masks of civility to be stripped away, for the raw frustration of the displaced to turn into hate and hostility toward those they perceive as displacing them.

In our era, SF and its allied fandoms—comics, gaming, and the like—have experienced upheavals that reflect the ones happening in our electoral politics and broader civic landscape. In 'Gate after 'Gate we have seen metaphorical walls erected and defended by rhetorical militia. We have heard constant demands to make the "canon" great again. We have felt the backlash from old majorities against the "invasion" of new ones, and their simple requests for representation, sensitivity, and equity.

Against this retrograde tide, Arthur has consistently stood up. Arthur has persistently spoken out. Arthur has defiantly resisted. And in doing so, he has inspired others to do the same—to lock arms and encircle those who might be trampled, and to lift them up above the fray.

In these that are the best and worst of times for fandom, it's fans like Arthur, leading us forward, shouting at the dark, who give us hope that the future holds more of the former and less of the latter.

– Jeff Yang



The Invasion

By Arthur Chu

Warning: this piece contains strong language.

“Asians are aliens. And aliens are Asians.”

It wasn't a big presentation, even for a small liberal arts school like Swarthmore College. It was held in a classroom, not in one of the big lecture halls, and only half full. The presenter was a scruffy Chinese-American grad student giving a talk about his thesis, on the Golden Age of Science Fiction. He did very little to undermine the stereotypical image of someone who would do a thesis on the Golden Age of Science Fiction—every word he said subtly undermined by the reediness of his tone, the awkward stumbling of his delivery, the acne that lingered on his face at the ripe old age of twenty-five, the overwhelming and inescapable nerdiness of his entire persona.

Not the kind of venue where you expect to hear the words that will change your entire life.

I remember, slumped in my seat at the back of the room, being overwhelmed by an oppressive foul mood I had no name for yet, watching this guy talk. The strange magnetic attraction-yet-repulsion that I felt toward all the other overweight bespectacled Asian Trekkies in the world. An intense defensiveness toward this guy, a deep hostility against anyone else in the room who might be judging him—and a deep embarrassment and anger at having to feel that way, a revulsion at the idea anyone might be mentally lumping him and me into the same category. Don't stand so close to me. Don't drag me down with you.

I'd later learn a few names for this restless state of being in my classes. Cultural cringe. Du Bois' double consciousness.

Alienation.

“Asians are aliens and aliens are Asians,” he said, and I suddenly had the dizzying sensation of having all of my meta thoughts about a lecture—all my tangled emotions about attending a lecture by an Asian-American science fiction geek as some gesture of solidarity from a fellow Asian-American science fiction geek—show up in the lecture.

I already knew what he meant, and I knew he was right, and I knew that I'd known my whole life but just not had the words for it. I could already recite the

rest of his lecture, verbatim, without him needing to say it.

The classic “Roswell Gray,” he said, the description of the shrieking autopsy victim in that famous New Mexico desert in 1947 that was almost instantly adopted as the standard bogeyman of alien abductees, was eerily similar to the racist caricatures of the Japanese in political propaganda from World War II just a few years prior. Bulging, strangely ovoid eyes, a tiny nose and mouth, a grotesquely oversized forehead. Hairless, childlike, infantile—yet cerebral, mirthless, sinister. At once an infant and a wizened old man, at once innocent yet depraved.

The typical explanation for the Grays was that they were an exaggeration of human evolution—they were meant to be to *Homo sapiens* as we were to our ape-like hominid ancestors. They represented America's collective fear of modernity, the disquieting thought of becoming more intelligent and sophisticated over time but losing some essential humanity along the way.

But that, he said, was already how Asians had been perceived by Europeans for hundreds of years. The idea of the “alien” civilization—highly advanced and highly cultured yet somehow inferior to “normal” people, missing some spark of humanity despite their dizzying intellect, unlikable and unrelatable for all their frightening competence... That was a set of tropes called “Orientalism” that had been applied to Asian cultures—the temples of India, the teahouses of Japan, the seraglios of Turkey—long before the science fiction genre existed.

That was always the fear the white man had always nursed, of being replaced. Of discovering that their myth of being at the top of the Great Chain of Being by divine fiat was false. Of finding out that their success in commerce and conquest wasn't an automatic result of their values and their culture, that someone else could do what they did, do it better, and beat them at it while doing it wrong.

Jack London laid it out in his 1904 essay “The Yellow Peril,” warning that the teeming hordes of China and Japan had minds just as capable of mastering modern technology as the white man but that they had no soul—or rather “[the] Western soul did not dream that the Eastern soul existed, it was so different, so totally different.”

London went on to expound on this theme in a 1910 work of science fiction, “The Unparalleled Invasion,”

where the Western powers fight a desperate war of annihilation against China and eventually win through the use of biological weapons, depopulating much of the Asian continent and inaugurating a new golden age.

He was the first to literally make Asians his alien enemy; he wouldn't be the last. In the 1928 novel *Armageddon 2419 A.D.* by Philip Francis Nowlan, Anthony Rogers (later christened "Buck" when adapted as a newspaper comic strip) awakens in the 25th century to find the Earth has been conquered by an evil civilization known as the Han, the descendants of the people of China after they were mutated by an extraterrestrial meteorite. Robert A. Heinlein, the Dean of Science Fiction, wrote his 1940 serialized novel *Sixth Column* about a future where the United States is conquered by the "Pan-Asians", who are only defeated in the end through the use of (once again) biological weapons, the "Ledbetter ray" that can be tuned to kill only life forms that carry Asian genes.

So yes, the original aliens literally were Asians—"alien" only in the sense of their non-white DNA. And even when they started making the aliens actual extraterrestrials who only incidentally resembled Asian humans—Buck Rogers' successor in the serials, Flash Gordon, fighting "Ming the Merciless" from "Mongo"—the attitude stayed the same.

John W. Campbell, the legendary editor of *Astounding Science Fiction*, famously made it a rule in stories he published that aliens could only be the antagonists and had to lose at the end—because he was an open white supremacist, who believed that northern Europeans were the destined rulers of the Earth and that humans, as the "northern Europeans of the galaxy", should be the destined rulers of the stars. Anything less would be betraying the principles of "scientific optimism" on which his magazine was founded. (Campbell's work at *Astounding* was widely credited for inaugurating what critics called the Golden Age of Science Fiction, and the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer remained named after him for all 47 years it's existed. The name was only removed after Jeanette Ng's acceptance speech complained about it in August 2019, two months prior to me writing this.)

Once you see it, you can't quite unsee it, even in modern franchises made by well-meaning progressives. You start to bristle at every alien race that's simultaneously too primitive and too advanced, that's both hamstrung by hidebound rituals and yet infected with decadence and corruption, that unfairly dominates galactic civilization with their monopoly on ancient secrets but can always be taken down a peg or two by

good old fashioned fisticuffs from red-blooded, beer-drinking, normal humans. It bothers you every time those sneering Vulcans get beaten in a baseball game, every time someone steamrolls an Eldar army with fascist Space Marines for the glory of mankind, every time a white good old boy sneers that an ornate mystical staff weapon is a mere "weapon of terror" while a standard-issue American-made P90 is a "weapon of war".

Sometimes a throwback like George Lucas makes it easy and shoves the racism right in your face, with a bunch of creepy green dudes dressed like Qing Dynasty eunuchs slurring their R's as L's and threatening to destroy the economy of the lovable bucolic bumpkins from Naboo by driving their prices down through unrestricted trade.

Sometimes it's blatant enough that you realize you're not oversensitive and you're not crazy. The genre just really is that racist.

So why, I asked myself sitting in that classroom and still ask myself today, did I love it so much? Why did I keep getting pissed off and frustrated by watching the aliens' superior technology get steamrolled by the pluck and courage and indefatigable spirit of the insufferably human heroes, and yet still come back for more?

Some would say it's about holding out hope for something better. Science fiction has come a long way since the Golden Age. Had I been born later, had my life gone differently, had there been one less bully or one better therapist along the way, I might have fantasized about being a square-jawed Asian-American leading man in an uplifting diverse cast of humans working together toward that optimistic future.

But no, it's too late for me. I'm the other kind of PoC in fandom. The mean kind.

I don't want to fight you to reclaim my humanity. Fuck humanity. I am the alien.

The monster, the creep, the freak. Who doesn't say his words quite right, whose food doesn't taste quite right, who doesn't quite dress or act right. The one you just don't trust, because you just get that funny feeling in your gut when you look at his face.

The one who's never a "culture fit" after the interview regardless of my test scores. The one who's got the "quantitative skills" but not "leadership qualities," the one who's got the talent but not the charisma, the one who's got the full CV but the empty social calendar. The one who wins four hundred thousand dollars



on one of your stupid game shows and gets every news channel talking about how America doesn't want him on their TV because he's not respectful enough of an American institution.

I don't want to fight you to reclaim my American-ness. Fuck America. I am the invader.

I know it when I see your flag, hear your schmaltzy patriotic tunes, your words like history and heritage and tradition. The cold revulsion it instinctively raises in me, the defensive crouch, the hostile Cylon gleam it brings out in my eye.

When I watch a crowd cheering a madman calling for the aliens to be purged, a wall to be built against them, for America to be made great again.

I know there's no place for me in your history. And I don't want to fight to reclaim it. Fuck history. I am the future.

I'm the advance scout for the thing you fear when you watch the skies, the threat besieging your tiny blue planet from all directions in space, the change you know you will not survive.

I don't know exactly how it happens. Whether it comes all at once as a fleet of silver ships or it comes slowly as infiltrators replacing your neighbors one by one. Whether your world crumbles in a sudden explosive cataclysm, or is subtly warped and eroded over time in ways you never notice until it's too late. Whether the name of the enemy ends up being the Yellow Peril, or the Queer Degeneracy, or the Autism Epidemic—so many different species of alien, so many incorrect ways to be a human being that don't fit in your tiny blue shithole planet.

And I don't care. It doesn't matter.

Because I do know why I keep reading those stories. I know why you keep writing them. Why men like Campbell obsessed over your war against the alien and felt the need to constantly ritually reenact the alien's defeat. I know the truth that you defy in all your bravado and bluster, the truth that, by denying it so stridently, all your stories end up admitting in the end.

In real life, the invasion has already begun.

In real life, the world is already ending.

In real life, the aliens win.



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Artist Guest of Honor

Kristina Carroll



The first thing that strikes someone about Kristina Carroll's work is that it is beautiful. The harmonious palettes, lyrical mark-making, and sensuous subjects are a feast for the eyes. Living in a world where beauty lives on a high pedestal or gets dismissed as vapid, it can be easy to miss the dimensionality of what she is creating. The thing I love about Kristina's work is the vivid layer of humanity lying within each piece.

Knowing Kristina, you see where this comes from. I remember seeing her lovely paintings at a convention years ago, and thinking, "Damn these are gorgeous!" But gorgeous alone doesn't hold you. There is something about how she captures the knowing gaze of a goddess, the sorrow of a minotaur, or even the wicked cleverness of a skeksi, that draws you in. It is those same qualities that draw you into Kristina the person.

Kristina is empathetic and this is a powerful force in her work. Her care and compassion about the people around her and the world as a whole comes through her work. It's also the reason people connect with it.

Kristina's works never feel static. There is an almost kinetic feel to the pieces. When you revisit a piece you'll find something that hits you differently. The flow of the pieces and the mark-making leaves room for interpretation and meets you in the moment.

I fear I've painted Kristina as some twee fairy godmother. There is no one better to see a mind-bending psychological horror movie with and then discuss it over cocktails. Her work reflects this. Though it is all beautiful, it doesn't always feel safe. The edge of danger and mischief in her works present in a way that we can't deny ourselves involvement, despite what consequences may arise.

Kristina doesn't feel the need to placate us with one view of womanhood and revels in the diversity she presents us with. The men she paints are never one-dimensional and have a depth of emotion that resonates. Her subjects transcend binary interpretations in a way that allows for greater emotional engagement from her audience.

The stories Kristina's works tell are engaging, the emotion in her work evocative. She is an artist I can come to again and again and always am surprised and enchanted.

—Jennifer Hrabota Lesser

Featured works by Kristina Carroll:

Vernal (p. 21)

Richard (p. 22)

The Frog Queen's Revenge (p. 23)

White as Snow (p. 24)

Elevation (p. 25)

Merlin (p. 26)

The Minotaur (p. 27)

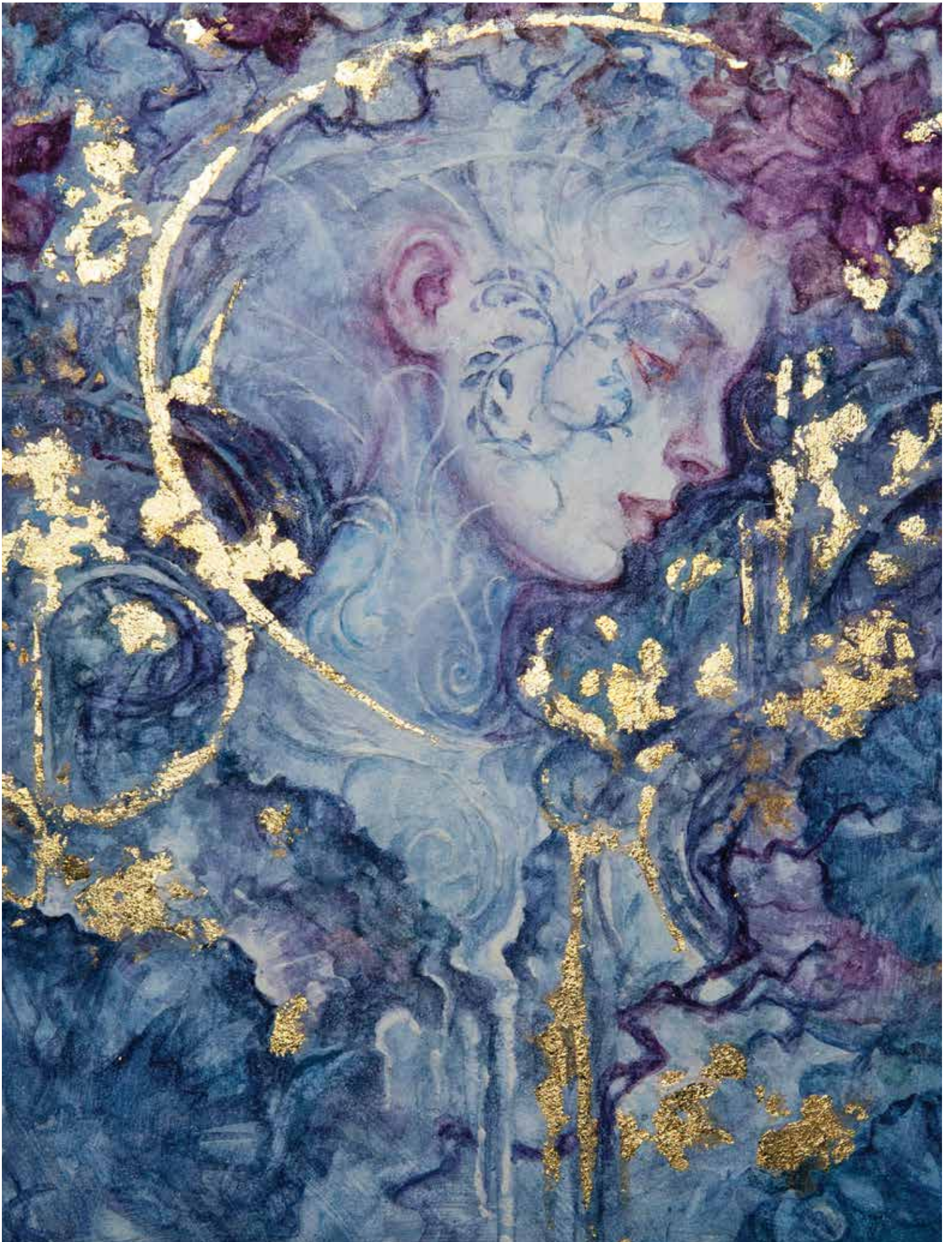
Nyx (p. 28)

Tower (inside front cover)

Tree (back cover)

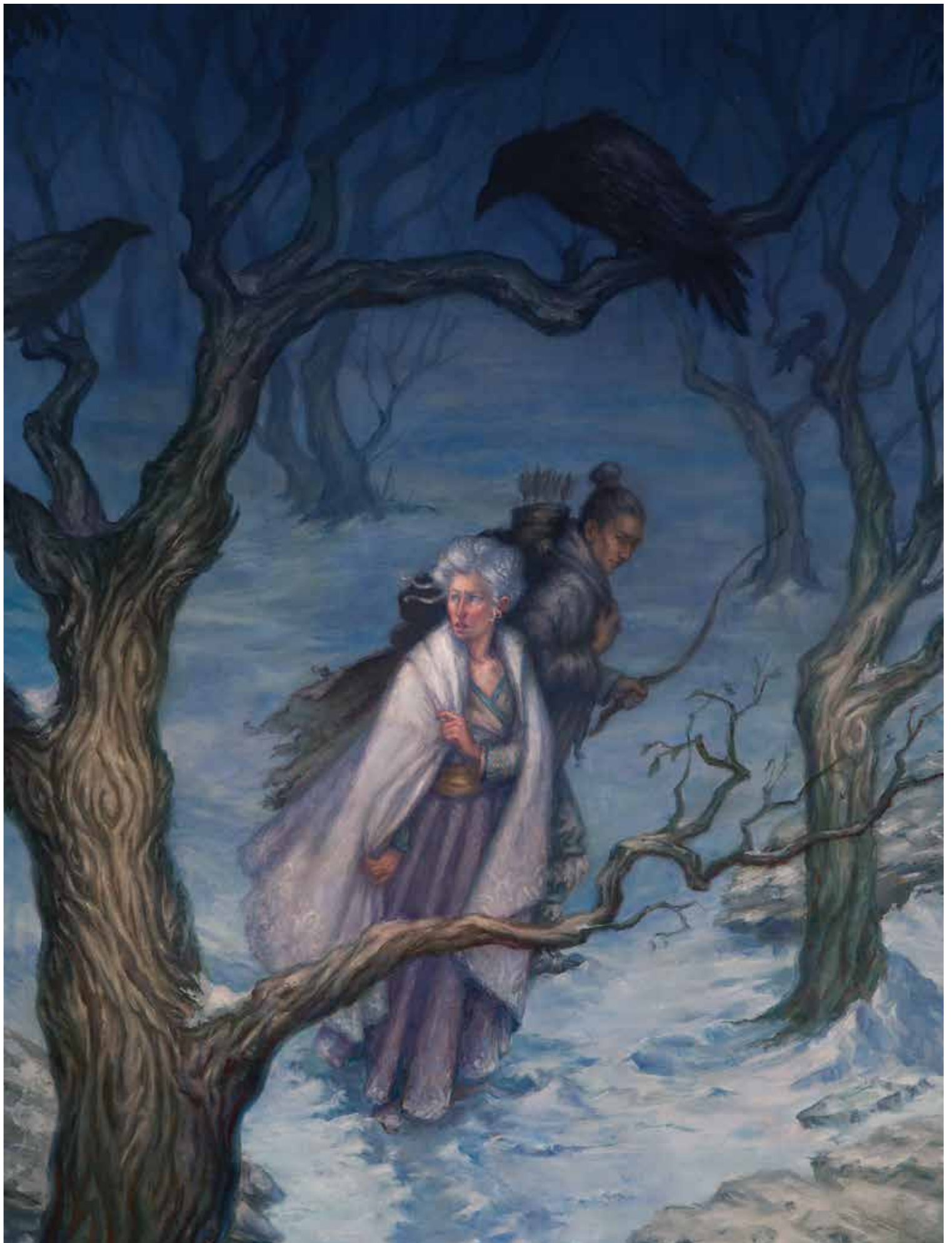
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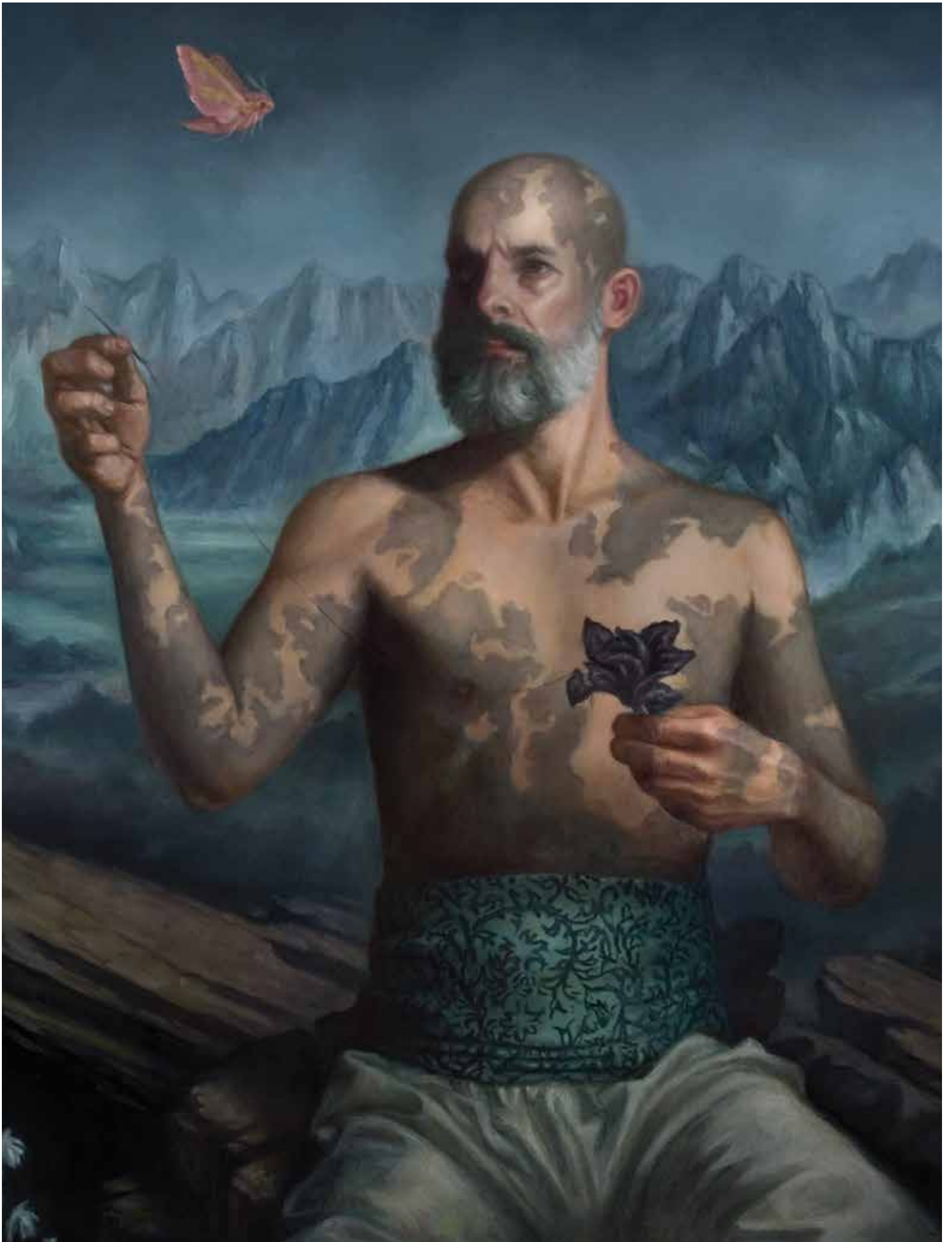


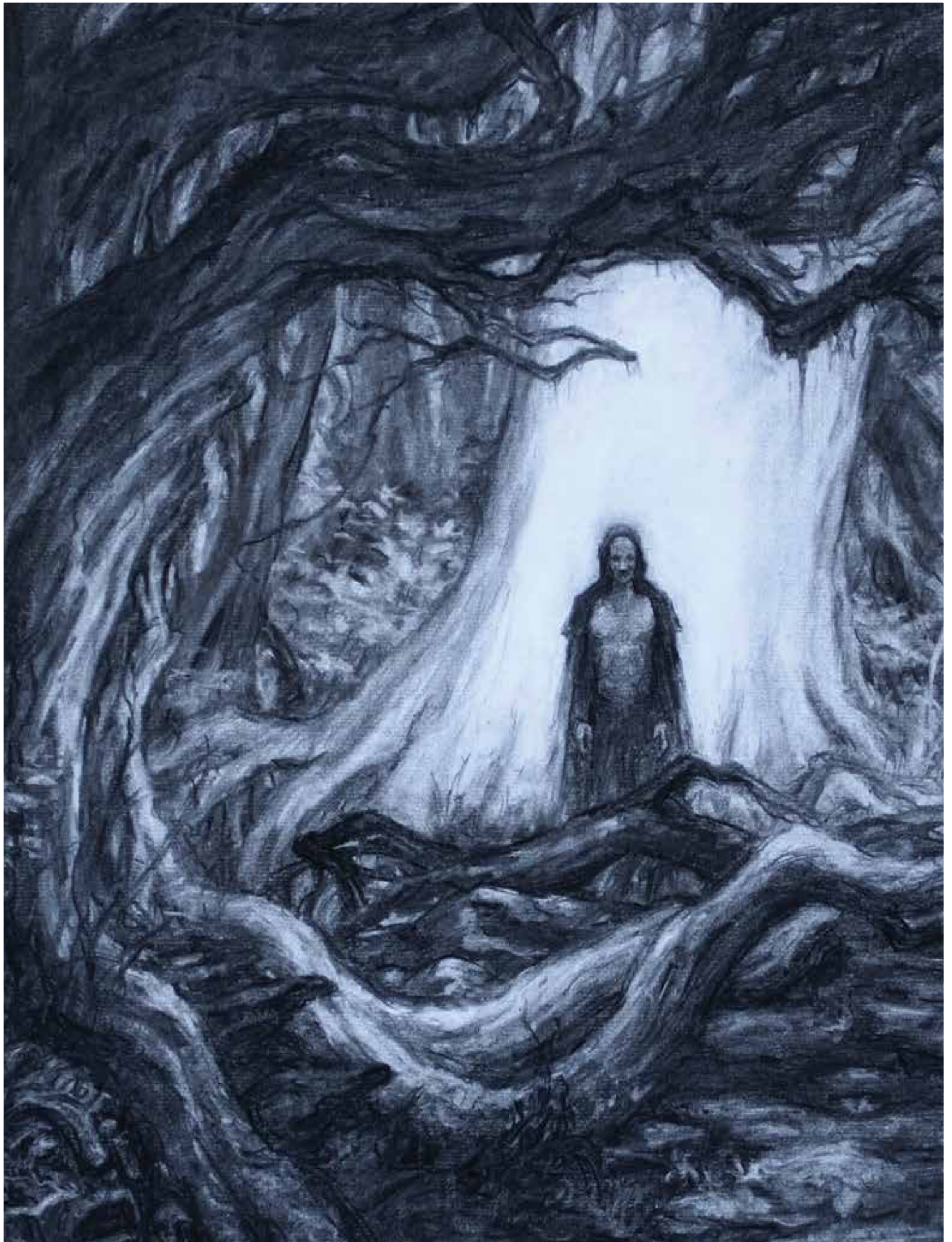




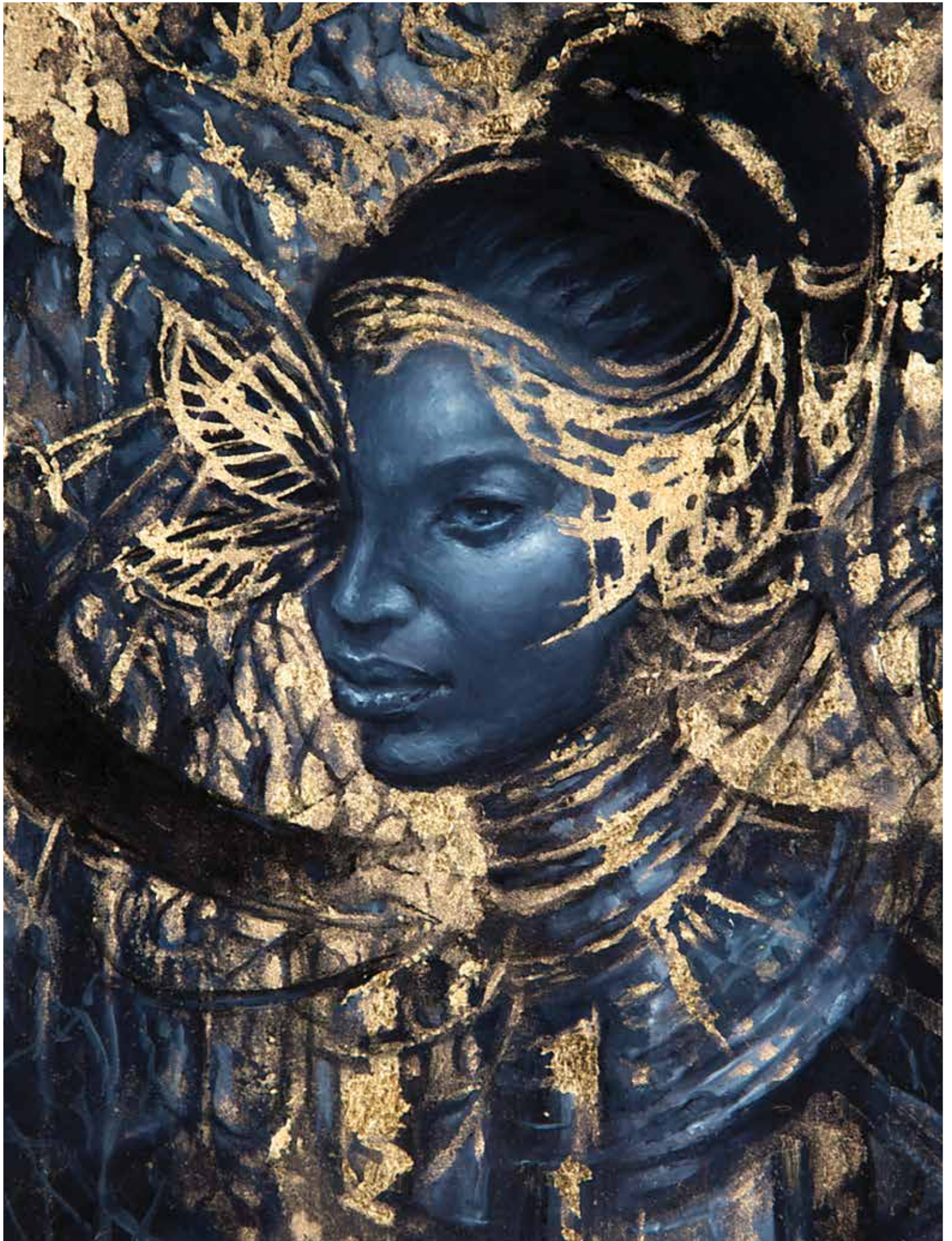














Arisia Code of Conduct and Behavior Policies

To help ensure our members' happiness and a successful convention, we have established a Code of Conduct and Behavior Policies for all members and staff. Please read this document and help us have a safe and welcoming convention for all.

Arisia reserves the right to revoke, without refund, the membership of anyone for just cause. This may also lead to being banned from future Arisia conventions. Persons violating the law may be turned over to the police or the hotel security force. We will refund the membership fee of anyone who finds the policies contained herein unacceptable prior to accepting their badge. The general principles of this Code of Conduct apply to the Arisia convention and also to all the activities of the convention committee, whether before or after the convention.

General Demeanor

Arisia expects its members to respect each other and behave in a generally civilized fashion. Members should respect common sense rules for public behavior, personal interaction, common courtesy, and respect for private property. If you wouldn't do it in public, please don't do it here. Additionally, all Staff are representatives of Arisia and therefore are held to a higher standard of behavior, even when off duty.

Reminder: The hotel is not dedicated completely to our use for the weekend. Members of the general public stay here or visit the hotel to dine and socialize. Please be considerate of non-convention individuals at all times.

Arisia forbids abusive, insulting, harassing, and / or intimidating behavior which includes, but is not limited to, stalking, physical or verbal intimidation, discriminatory comments, inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome sexual attention.

Please report any incidents in which a member of the convention is abusive, insulting, intimidating, bothersome, or acting in an unsafe or illegal manner to Incident Response Team (IRT), an Assistant Div Head, a Division Head, an Assistant Con Chair, or the Con Chair.

Sleeping in public or convention areas of the hotel is forbidden by the hotel management. This is private property.

Program participants, moderators, and event coordinators are responsible for the comfort and safety of convention members in their areas. Disruptive behavior by adults or children is not acceptable. Any request to leave an area must be complied with immediately; appeals should be brought to attention of "The Watch" (Arisia Security Staff) and directed to the responsible Division Head, the Convention Chairperson, or the Arisia Corporate Executive Board.

Convention Badges must be worn by all attendees and volunteers and must be visible to access any convention area (including Dealers Room and Open Parties). Exceptions may be made for special cases, e.g., uniformed professionals (police or nurses) and masquerade participants while on-stage (but masquerade participants do need to have memberships in any case).

Student Memberships for ages 13-25 require a current valid student ID for students aged 18 and older.

Children as Fans and Companions

Note: In this section where "Parent" is used, it can mean a parent, guardian, or person charged with a child's welfare. Arisia makes every effort to protect fans of all ages and provide a healthy environment with many opportunities for fun and learning. Children are a valued part of our membership, and we wel-

come their appropriate participation.

All children aged 8 and under must be with an adult, in Turtle Track (Child-care), or in Fast Track (Children's Programming) con areas.

Parents of children ages 9-12 who believe their children are mature enough (and who have their own paid membership) may choose to allow their children to freely roam the convention on their own. Any child who excessively misbehaves or engages in inappropriate, disruptive or dangerous behavior is subject to having free-roaming privileges or their entire membership revoked.

Children under 12 years old may attend with either their own paid convention membership, or with a free Kids-in-Tow membership (with and under the supervision of an authorized adult at all times). Arisia requires that there be at least one supervising adult with a membership accompanying every three Kids-in-Tow members.

Parents should make sure to be aware of the hours of Fast Track and Turtle Track. Parents who are late in picking up children may have their children barred from Babysitting and/or Fast Track at the current or future conventions.

Any unattended children (which includes: children not picked up at Fast Track/Turtle Track; children that do not have free-roaming ribbons found outside of Fast Track) will be brought to "The Watch" (Arisia Security), who will follow procedure to ensure the safety of the child.

Please remember that the convention and hotel is not "child-proofed." There are many items (including costumes, displays, art, etc.) that are easily damaged. Additionally there are things that might place a young child at potential risk. It is the parents' responsibility to supervise their children so they do not venture anywhere or

touch anything inappropriate.

Participation in some regular program items by minors may require parental permission or the presence of a supervising adult. Some program items dealing with adult topics may be closed to children under 18 years of age. Although children under 18 years of age may register as “adults,” membership in the convention in no way supersedes local, state, or federal laws. Some items may require the supervision of a child by parents. It is the parents’ responsibility to review the schedule and decide which items they will allow their child to participate in, either with or without adult supervision

Please review the separate Children’s Policies for a full description and restrictions.

Costume and Masquerade Guidelines

All costumes are welcome at Arisia, whether created by the wearer or not. However, purchased and rented costumes are not eligible for awards. Awards are made to the creator of the costume, not the wearer.

Costume weapons are permitted, but must be peace-bonded by “The Watch” (Arisia Security) upon arrival at the convention, unless worn solely for the masquerade as part of an on-stage costume. The use of any weaponry as part of your costume, as well as the use of any special effects, must first be approved by the Masquerade Director. Remember, it’s okay to surprise the audience, but not the staff.

During the masquerade, flash photography and laser pointers are forbidden. If you take photos or videos during the Masquerade, do not obstruct the view of other audience members. All electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, pagers, tablet computers) must be silenced and their screens must be dimmed.

Participants in the masquerade must read and agree to the terms contained in a separate costumer release and masquerade rules.

Parties in Guest Rooms

For individuals or groups wishing to host a party (Open or Closed), you must register with the convention in advance and use a room in the “Active” room block. Parties registered in advance with Arisia will be moved to a “Party Host room”, which ensures that you are covered by Arisia’s corkage agreement (allowing you to serve food and non-alcoholic drinks).

Parties may be “open” (all convention members welcome, or with doors open or ajar, or publicly advertised) or “Closed Parties” (private, doors closed, no advertising). Serving of alcohol is not allowed in Open Party areas.

Party hosts are responsible for adhering to convention policies, hotel rules, and local, state, and federal laws, including the enforcement of the drinking age. All Party Hosts must review and adhere to the separate Party Host Rules.

Smoking, Alcohol, Weapons, Nudity and Illegal Acts

The Westin hotel bans smoking in all areas of the hotel, including all guest rooms. Smoking is allowed outside the building away from the doorways.

Arisia prohibits the consumption of alcohol in all convention areas except for alcohol purchased from the hotel and consumed directly in the area in which it was purchased. The legal drinking age in Massachusetts is 21. You may be asked to provide a valid ID if ordering alcoholic beverages.

Arisia’s corkage waiver does not apply to serving of alcohol. According to hotel policy all alcoholic beverages must be purchased through the hotel.

Laws governing illicit substances, obscenity, weapons, public behavior, and the treatment of minors must be strictly observed. Remember, there may be members of the Boston Police Department on patrol at the convention.

The list of illegal weapons in Massa-

chusetts include, but are not limited to: blackjacks, billy clubs, any sort of double-edged knife (symmetrical cross-section, even if one side is dull), shuriken (throwing stars) and nunchucks. For further information see MA General Laws, Part 4, Title 1, Chapter 269, Section 10.

While the hotel is private property, the hotel is still required by the Boston Licensing Board to enforce standards of conduct and nudity. Accordingly, street-legal attire is required in all convention spaces and hallways.

Recording Policy

Arisia’s Code of Conduct requires respect for other attendees, including obtaining permission to make recordings (including but not limited to still photographs, audio recordings, and video recordings), not using recordings for malicious purposes, and following the applicable laws and regulations established by the hosting facility. Further details may be found here.

Vending Policies

All vending (exchange of money for goods or services) must be authorized by the convention, and only take place in authorized locations. Vendors must comply with all applicable laws (including but not limited to copyright and tax laws).

Other Policies

All raffles and drawings, whether for profit or charitable reasons, must comply with the City of Boston guidelines.

Attendees may only post signs on official Arisia Sign Kiosks, located around the hotel, using the tape provided.





Program Participants

Vivian Abraham

Wendee Abramo is a life long dabbler. In 2008 she discovered belly dance and finally found her favorite thing to geek out about. As half of Ki-Ra Luna, she's performed at Arisia as an ewok, an evil clown, a chicken, and a Ghostbuster. She can also be found dancing at local faires and festivals, teaching American Tribal Style® dance, and ranting about cat cafes. She lives, and occasionally podcasts, in Brighton with her husband and their dog. Also, there is a cat. [facebook.com/KiRaLunaDance](https://www.facebook.com/KiRaLunaDance)

E. C. Ambrose wrote the Dark Apostle series of historical fantasy novels about medieval surgery. As Elaine Isaak, she wrote The Singer's Legacy series, and as E. Chris Ambrose, she writes the Bone Guard international thrillers. In her research, she learned to hunt with a falcon, clear a building of intruders, pull traction, and steer a pirate ship. The author is a graduate of and instructor for the Odyssey Writing workshop. She leads adventure camp and makes wearable art clothing.

Mark L Amidon first read Isaac Asimov's *Nightfall* in 1971 and has been heavily involved in science fiction ever since. He has been attending Arisia since 1991, and with his wife since 1992. He lives in the future, right now, and for a living tells computers what to do and how to do it. His cats remain aloof.

Thomas A. Amoroso I'm a medical director for a regional health plan, a practicing emergency physician with disaster response experience, a polyamorous parent, and a licensed ham radio operator. I can claim to be a published author, but Arisia members don't care about my work in the Emerg. Med Clin. North Amer. or my appearance in Health Affairs. I talk too loud, rant too much, and have way too much fun for an introvert. I also make vacuum tube amplifiers and ham radio gear. Good night, and good luck.

Joseph Andelman Boston-based social organizer and collaborator of events for Science Fiction, Fantasy and Anime fans. These have ranged from dinners and movie viewings to anime marathons and bar crawls. However, his longest running effort has been managing a local Manga Club since 2013 that is still going strong!

Bekah Maren Anderson is a fantasy writer in training, disability activist, and seminarian. By day she works to make the church more accessible; by night she writes to make speculative fiction more crip. She has published

pieces about disability, queerness, and religion with the Wild Goose Festival and the New Sacred blog. Her fantasy writing, as yet unpublished, tends to be character driven and sad. She blogs irregularly at bekahmaren.blogspot.com. Follow her on Twitter @BekahMaren.

Michael Anderson is the reigning two-time champion of BAHFest, the Festival of Bad Ad Hoc Hypotheses. He has presented at MIT, Seattle and London. Here are his five greatest hits: Why Middle-Aged Men Develop Abdominal Doughnuts, Why the Boston Red Sox Should Build a Particle Accelerator under Fenway Park, Why Alien Civilizations Have Not Responded to Creationist Propaganda, Why MIT Should Hire White House Aides into its Physics Department, and Why Ambient Noise Explains the Black Death.

Athena Andreadis, PhD Greek-born Athena Andreadis came to the US to attend Harvard and MIT, then research molecular brain function. She's the author of *To Seek Out New Life: The Biology of Star Trek* and the engine behind *The Other Half of the Sky* and *To Shape the Dark*. Her poems, stories and essays are in venues like *Harvard Review*, *Strange Horizons*, *Crossed Genres*, *Bull Spec*, *SF Signal*, *H+ Magazine*, *io9*, and her own site, *Starship Reckless*. She's the chief astrogator of swashbuckling small press *Candlemark & Gleam*.

Eemeli Aro

Inanna Arthen (Vyrdolak) is a freelance book designer, voice actor and author of *The Vampires of New England Series: Mortal Touch* (2007), *The Longer the Fall* (2010), *All the Shadows of the Rainbow* (2013) and *Human Services* (2020). Inanna runs *By Light Unseen Media* and is a member of *New England Horror Writers*, *Broad Universe*, *IPNE* and *IBPA*. Their short story "The Fishman and His Wife" appears in *Twice Upon an Apocalypse* (Crystal Lake, 2017). Find out more at inannaarthen.com.

Lisa A Ashton is a SF/Fantasy/Historical costumer living in Harpers Ferry, WV. Arisia 2017 she was part of "3-fold Goddess" winning BIS. 2019 saw her win BIC for the "1825 Fur Trapper of the American West" at CC37 in Danvers, and BIS at Balticon for "Mystic Legacy". She is the founder of *Miss Lizzy's Traveling Historical Fashion Show*, collecting antique photos and tintypes as well as Authentic Victorian garments and artifacts.

Julia Austein Artist, teacher and Co-director of the Arisia Artshow. Also a long-time Arisia attendee.

Michael Bailey is a professional writer from Worcester,

Massachusetts who kind of hates writing bios. After 15 years in journalism, Michael left to focus on his creative writing career. He is the author of two ongoing series, “Action Figures” and “The Adventures of Strongarm & Lightfoot,” and the urban fantasy trilogy “Well-Behaved Women.” In his spare time Michael is a regular performer and stage combat director with the Connecticut Renaissance Faire.

Marzell Barker Born in poverty, raised in mythology, Marzell is always curious about what people think. Having an M.A. in counseling psychology with 6 years in the field of mental health, most of it in crisis. They plan to work in sex therapy with LGBTQIA, BDSM, and Sexual assault survivors. They have many interest that stem from mythology and culture from food, music, clothing, kink, and animals (keeping some of these interest separate for basic decency of course).

E. J. Barnes is a cartoonist and comics writer, illustrator, and editor, having been published in newspapers, magazines, and anthologies. She exhibits at independent comic-book conventions, and her comic books, self-published under Drowned Town Press (drownedtownpress.com) are sold across the country.

Beth Barnett makes comics in Cambridge, MA. Her work focuses on heroes, health, and history.

Reuben Baron writes articles on pop culture for Comic Book Resources, with a particular interest in film and animation. They’ve directed short films and are hoping to find producers for several screenplays. This is Reuben’s sixth year on panels at Arisia, and they are also a regular panelist at Anime Boston.

Liz Betts spent a decade being a custom framer, and is a member of the PFFA (Professional Picture Framers Association), although currently she only frames freelance on the side. Most of what she likes to do in her free time is art and building stuff.

Elizabeth Birdsall is a French to English translator, occasional author, and longtime fan, as well as a queer woman and a dabbler in many subjects. She has had short stories published here and there, most notably in the “Women Destroy Science Fiction!” special issue of *Lightspeed Magazine*, and recently returned to Boston after grad school in Montreal. Clearly she loves maple and cold winters, not to mention tea, cats, and overflowing bookshelves.

Vivian Blush is a Rhode Island based DJ spinning everything from darkwave to electro, industrial, and techno. She has a residency at Providence’s Queer Womxn’s Night spinning old school dance hits and is a regular selector for Symposium Records’ underground parties. Outside of DJing she spends her time working for a more socially humane world. soundcloud.com/vivianblush

David E. Brahm, Ph.D., CFA, is a portfolio manager at

Geode Capital Management in Boston. Dr. Brahm holds an S.B. in physics and math from MIT, and a Ph.D. in theoretical particle physics from U.C. Berkeley. Following six years of postdoctoral physics research at Caltech and Carnegie Mellon, he joined Fidelity Investments in 1996, and became one of the founders of Geode in 2001.

James Brecht was one of two technical founders of Z Corporation making 3D printers from 1995 through 2012. He is one of the developers of the first full-color commercial 3D printer. He holds over 20 issued patents in 3DP technology. His present company, Viridis3D sells industrial 3D printers to the foundry industry. He also occasionally teaches materials science at MIT, and is writing a graphic novel. For the past 25 years, he has appeared as a human spotlight at the Ig Nobel Awards Ceremony.

Cyd Brezinsky Part-time biologist, Part-time artist, full-time Dragon Lady (or so it says on my Deviantart page). Over 30 years ago, I had a car with no radio, a long commute, and an idea that dogged me about the anatomy of dragons. This ultimately resulted in the creation of creatures that sometimes fight back. The wire skeleton of my winged reptiles is the one of the inspirations for the costume wings in this year’s workshops.

Kate Brick: edits books, makes costumes, herds chickens. Plays well with others. Mostly.

Laurence Raphael Brothers is a writer and a technologist with a background in AI R&D. As a SF writer, he has published over twenty-five short stories in such magazines as *Nature*, the *New Haven Review*, *PodCastle*, and *Galaxy’s Edge*. Follow him on twitter at @lbrothers. His WWI-era fantasy novel “*Twilight Patrol*” has just been published by Alban Lake, and his urban fantasy novella “*The Demons of Wall Street*” will be published in the spring by *Mirror World*.

Terri Bruce is the author of the paranormal/contemporary fantasy “*Afterlife*” series and numerous short stories in various anthologies and magazines. Like Anne Shirley, she prefers to make people cry rather than laugh, but is happy if she can do either. She produces hard-to-classify fantasy and science fiction stories that explore the supernatural side of everyday things from beautiful Downeast ME, where she lives with her husband and several cats. Visit her on the web at www.terribruce.net.

Nat Budin is a singer/songwriter/larper/programmer. He has written and run over a dozen larps, has served as con chair of Intercons I and P as well as the first three Festival of the LARPs conventions at Brandeis University, and writes open source software in the Ruby on Rails community.

Michael A. Burstein, winner of the 1997 Astounding Award for Best New Writer, has earned ten Hugo nominations and four Nebula nominations for his short fiction, collected in *I Remember the Future*. He lives with his wife



Nomi and their twin daughters in the town of Brookline, Massachusetts, where he is an elected Town Meeting Member and Library Trustee. He develops science curriculum when not writing. He has two degrees in Physics and attended the Clarion Workshop. See <http://www.mabfan.com>.

Nomi S. Burstein is a technical writer, freelance editor, and fiction writer. Her debut novel, *Flying Without a Net*, was published in November 2016 under the name EM Ben Shaul. When she is not involved in professional word-nerdery, Nomi knits, sews, and performs amateur word-nerdery. She lives in Brookline, MA, with her husband, Michael A. Burstein, and their twin daughters.

Mildred Cady Writing, cooking, fandom, costuming, history, gaming, music, kink, polyamory, paganism... a little bit of this and that all combining into a quirky package. Mildred's written works have been a part of the Metamor City and Nobilis Erotica podcasts, as well as occasional appearances on other geeky podcasts.

Kevin Cafferty is a documentary filmmaker from Massachusetts. His film "It's a Bash!" (which is about punk rock) was given four stars by *The Providence Journal*, aired on New England PBS affiliates, and is currently available on DVD and YouTube. He has been nominated for four Emmy awards, can be followed on Twitter at @kcafferty, and was named "Person of the Year" by Time Magazine in 2006.

James L. Cambias's first novel, *A Darkling Sea*, was published in 2014, followed by *Corsair* in 2015 and *Arkad's World* in 2019. His new novel *The Initiate* will appear in early 2020. His short stories have appeared in *F&SF*, *Shimmer*, *Nature*, and several anthologies. Mr. Cambias has also written for Steve Jackson Games, Hero Games, and other game companies, and is a partner in Zygote Games. He blogs at www.jamescambias.com.

Kristina Carroll, this year's Artist Guest of Honor, is an award-winning illustrator and fine artist specializing in magical realism and fantasy art. She's also the force behind the Month of Love and Month of Fear art challenges that are entering their sixth years.

Jeffrey A. Carver is the author of The Chaos Chronicles, including his recently published two-part novel, *The Reefs of Time* and *Crucible of Time*. He is also the author of the popular Star Rigger series, and the official Battlestar Galactica miniseries novelization. While his work lands somewhere between hard SF and space opera, his greatest love remains character, story, and a healthy sense of wonder. His *Eternity's End* was a finalist for the Nebula Award.

Monica Castillo is a writer and critic based in New York City. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Guardian, Variety, The Village Voice, RogerEbert.com, Remezcla, NPR and The Boston Globe. She completed her master's at the University of Southern California as the school's first film critic fellow.

Jeanne Cavelos is an award-winning editor, bestselling writer, and director of the Odyssey Writing Workshops Charitable Trust. Jeanne was a senior editor at Bantam Doubleday Dell, where she ran the SF/F and horror programs and won the World Fantasy Award. Jeanne has had seven books published by major publishers, two nominated for the Bram Stoker Award. She is director of Odyssey (www.odysseyworkshop.org), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to helping writers of F/SF/H improve their work.

Emma Caywood is a Children's and Youth Librarian in Wellesley, where she recommends books, entertains babies, hosts ukulele jam sessions, and turns picture books into plays. She has previously worked as a drama teacher, storyteller, actress, environmental science teacher, playwright, literary manager for screenwriters, grammar teacher, mask maker, and once did a one day stint as the receptionist at the Jazzercise Corporate Headquarters. Geeky Songwriter. Married to Andy Hicks.

Don Chase Author, illustrator, picture taker, and hopefully one day movie maker.

Benjamin Chicka is an Associate Lecturer in Philosophy and Religion at Curry College and the co-founder of TheoNerd.com. His academic work focuses on the relationship between religion and popular culture, American pragmatism, and religious pluralism. Benjamin has published scholarly work on astronomy, neuroscience, philosophy, and theology. He writes for more popular audiences at Patheos.com and often speaks at PAX East and other gaming conventions about diversity issues.

Arthur Chu, the Fan Guest of Honor, rose to fame as a viral "villain" of Jeopardy! He became a trusted commentator on Asian-American issues and progressive politics within the geek community. He continues to advocate for inclusive diversity, even standing up to the GamerGaters and Sad Puppies.

Sara Codair is the author over fifty short stories and poems, which are packed with action, adventure, magic, and the bizarre. They partially owe their success to their faithful feline writing partner, Goose the Meowditor-In-Chief, who likes to "edit" their work by deleting entire pages. Find Sara online at saracodair.com or @shatteredsmooth.

LJ Cohen is a novelist, poet, blogger, ceramics artist, Whovian, and relentless optimist. After almost twenty-five years as a physical therapist, LJ now uses her clinical skills to injure characters in her Science Fiction and Fantasy novels. *A Star in the Void* (Halcyone Space book 5), her 8th novel, was published in 2018. She lives outside Boston with her family, her dogs, and the occasional international student. <http://www.ljcohen.net>

Nathan Comstock is a co-creator of the Fiction podcast "Solutions to Problems," in which he also plays the character of Loaf. He also performs in a number of other fiction

podcasts. He was the Television editor of “The Analytical Couch Potato” from 2011 until it shut down in 2014. In his day job, he works for Ceaco Jigsaw puzzles and Gamewright games, where his duties include helping evaluate games for potential publication.

Andrea Martinez Corbin is an author and the founder of the Speculative Boston reading series. Her stories have appeared in *Shimmer*, Flash Fiction Online, Podcastle, and more. Her interactive fiction has appeared in Sub-Q, and more projects are available on her website, www.amcorbin.com. On Twitter, she is @rosencrantz. Raised in the Midwest, she now lives in the Boston area.

Tammy Coxen

Donald S. Crankshaw has a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from MIT, which was more useful for writing fantasy than he had expected, though less helpful for writing science fiction than he had hoped. He is a member of SFWA, and has previously published stories in *Cast of Wonders*, *Intergalactic Medicine Show*, and *Black Gate*. He and his wife, Kristin Janz, publish the pro-paying webzine *Mystereion*.

Deirdre Crimmins is a Chicago-based film and literature critic. Primarily focused on horror film, she also has a place in her heart for science fiction and fantasy. You can find her writing at Birth.Movies.Death, *Rue Morgue Magazine*, and *High Def Digest*.

James Cronen is a nerd-of-all-trades who enjoys running, board and role-playing games, music, microelectronics, juggling, and making cocktails. James is currently neutral good but aspires to become chaotic good someday.

Morgan Crooks grew up in the Finger Lakes Region of NY, a beautiful part of the country carved into being by ancient glaciers. He now lives outside of Boston, and is obsessed with wasps, cosmic horror, and ziggurats. His works have appeared in *Electric Spec*, *Daily Science Fiction*, and *Theme of Absence*. Find him online @raponikoff on Twitter and on ancientlogic.blogspot.com.

Aisha L Cruse A life long dancer, singer, actor, and all around weirdo, Aisha is also a full blown Church Enby (tm) and serves as chair of music and worship at First Parish Malden Unitarian Universalist. They are a non-monogamous, bi-racial, non-binary trans person. They are actively seeking to foster community, fight racism, topple the cis hetero patriarchy, and build a better, more compassionate world.

MJ Cunniff is a PhD candidate in literature at Brown University who works on contemporary poetry, queer theory, thanatology, and science fiction. MJ lives in Providence, Rhode Island with a dog statue and a haunted chandelier.

Mary Catelynn Cunningham got involved with science fictions conventions in 2004 when her now husband,

Mark Richards, dragged her to one kicking and screaming. Having been an avid fan for years she felt right at home. Catelynn is also a member of the alt lifestyle community in NYC where is she an emeritus board of a local group. Catelynn is 2018 HELIOSphere Chair and is the Area Head for Arisia Green Room.

Gillian Daniels lives, writes, and creates art in Somerville, MA. After attending the 2011 Clarion Writing Workshop, she has had poetry and prose published in *Apex Magazine*, *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, *Fireside Fiction*, *The Dark*, *Strange Horizons*, and other venues, as well as content for indie gaming company *Voidspiral Entertainment*. She’s also a local theater critic with *The New England Theatre Geek* blog. She blogs and sometimes posts drawings and cartoons at www.gilliandaniels.com.

Christopher K. Davis is a long-time reader of science fiction, player of board games, and computer systems wrangler.

Randee Dawn Brooklyn-based author Randee Dawn recently edited the spec-fic Beatles-themed anthology “Across the Universe” (available in the dealer’s room) and is an author whose stories have appeared in multiple anthologies, online publications and podcasts. She has a slim volume of short stories, “Home for the Holidays” and is the co-author of “The Law & Order: SVU Unofficial Companion.” For her day job, she glams it up for *Variety*, the *LA Times* and *Today.com*. More: RandeeDawn.com / @RandeeDawn (Twitter)

Harrison Demchick is a developmental editor who has worked on more than seventy published novels and memoirs in numerous genres. He’s also the author of 2012 literary horror novel *The Listeners* and 2019 short stories “Magicland” and “The Bead,” which appear in literary magazines *Phantom Drift* and *The Hunger*, and his first film, *Ape Canyon*, made its festival debut in November 2019.

Daniel P. Dern By day, Daniel P. Dern (www.dern.com) is still an independent technology & business writer. His science fiction stories have appeared in *Analog*, *F&SF*, and elsewhere. He’s currently writing more YA Jewish urban fantasy stories, including “...And They Built A Crooked Sukkah” and “For Two Zuzim Plain,” along with his *Dern Grim Bedtime Tales* (come hear him in *FastTrack!*), and more/other sf. He’s also an occasional amateur magician (see him in *FastTrack!*), and still reads comic books.

Michael “Lawyer Mike” Dlott has been running games for over 20 years and has frequently run *White Wolf LARPs* and *Dungeons and Dragons* games at local area cons such as *Arisia* and *Anime Boston*. Recently he has started staffing *Live Gaming* at *Arisia*. He resides in Quincy, MA with his wife Melissa and 2 cats.

Ari Donnelly I am a junior entertainment executive based in Los Angeles, originally from Framingham. I’ve been



coming to Arisia for 10 years. I believe being a panelist requires knowledge, concise expression, and respect for everyone in the room. I am well versed in the Film/TV Industry, film formats, YouTube and new media, plus a plethora of films and shows. I previously taught a class called “To Infinity and Beyond: The History of Pixar” with Splash MIT, and this is my second year as an Arisia panelist.

Debra Doyle is a science fiction and fantasy writer living in northern New England. She has a Ph.D. in English from the University of Pennsylvania, and does freelance editorial and critique work when she isn’t writing. Her most recent publications—co-written with her husband James D. MacDonald—include the short stories “One Night in Bavari” in Conspiracy!, from NESFA Press, and “Gertrude of Wyoming” in Altered States of the Union, from Crazy 8 Press.

Shirley Dulcey

Jonathan ‘Johnny C’ Earnest Jon is a self-proclaimed budget cosplay specialist. By the powers of Amazon, as well as clothes diving at various second hand stores and very light sewing capabilities, Jon has amassed a pretty decent collection of cosplays that he likes to bust out at any convention that he attends. Aside from cosplaying, Jon loves his video games... even if the all the games cheat and he dies more often than he should.

Basil El Halwagy creates Fine Art Superheroes; wearable art-characters that perform intuitive, site responsive performances. He also uses these characters to create photographs exploring the body’s relationship with natural and man made environments. Growing up in a cultural nexus like Cairo, Egypt, explains why El Halwagy’s characters are tightly wrapped in cultural patterns and motifs. Each costume bestows a unique visual identity upon the character.

Genevieve Iseult Eldredge GIE writes angsty lesbian urban fantasy YA—where girls who are mortal enemies kick butt, take names, and can’t figure out whether to kiss or kill each other.

Kevin Eldridge hosts The Flopcast, a ridiculous weekly podcast about comics, conventions, Saturday morning cartoons, 70s and 80s pop culture, and rubber chickens. He has performed at clubs, coffeehouses, and conventions throughout America, both as a podcaster and with his comedy band The Sponge Awareness Foundation, as heard on the Doctor Demento Show. Kevin has also hosted skeptic events promoting science and critical thinking, and is a published author of science fiction short stories.

Lyndsay Ely is the author of Gunslinger Girl, a YA genre-bent dystopian Western that published in 2018. She spent her teenage years wanting to be a comic book artist but, as it turned out, she couldn’t draw very well, so she began writing instead. She is a geek, a foodie, and has never met an antique shop or flea market she didn’t like. Boston is the place she currently calls home, though she wouldn’t

mind giving Paris a try someday.

Griffin Ess Professional illustrator and all about Slasher, Griffin has made it his life’s drive to create and facilitate art and entertainment that uplifts, informs, and includes. Check out the art at GriffinEss.com

etana is an assistive technology specialist, social justice worker, and poet. They like glitter, universal design, sewing (poorly), and cruising around like a blind cyborg in C.A.R., the trusty power chair. First fandom was Buffy (the film), first poetic love was Shel Silverstein, and Ms. Frizzle is still their favorite teacher/inspiration (for everything).

Kelly Fabijanic is the Arisia 2020 Convention Treasurer.

Wonder Wendy Farrell is an award winning costume designer with Wonder Wendy & Friends. She is a member of the Northern Lights Costumers Guild (NOEL). Her fabric hoard is both a source of inspiration and frustration. Her nerd family enjoys travelling to Cons for fun and adventures.

Lilli Fehler is a cosplayer, reenactor, theatrical costumer, costume historian, historical seamstress, and holds an MA in historic textile conservation. Her special interests are Spanish traditional costume, 19th century costume, and early female physicians, especially those who served in the military.

Alex Feinman hacks hackers for a living: he’s helped design a programming language used by millions worldwide, and currently helps the government get your money’s worth when building software. His sci-fi thriller Duplicate, and cyberpunk series We Were Gods, are available online.

Feklar42 I am a fan of crushing the patriarchy and fighting the spread of banality. Otherwise, I enjoy science fiction and fantasy pro- and fanworks – TV, movies, books, comics, anime, cartoons, costuming, games, fanfiction, fanvids, you name it, I will check it out. I would happily spend hours a day in coffee shops fancasting books and comics, or debating who’s boinking whom, who’s doing shots with whom, and, of course, who would beat whom in karaoke. FTR, the answer to all three is Xena.

Lisa Batya Feld writes SFF and is currently at work on multiple novels. She is a rabbinical school student at Hebrew College in Boston, and uses her rabbinic training to influence her world-building and vice versa.

Mr. Ferguson is a math teacher at a school for students with above average intelligence and emotional differences. He is also a youth sword instructor, so please ask him if you want your children to learn the knightly art of the sword. AND he is a storyteller with over 25 years’ experience, although some would say the first ten years don’t count because he wasn’t over 18 yet.

Max Impakt / Ask Kaylee Frye is a Chicago-based, ex-

perienced sex educator, panelist, & performer. Their work has appeared at conventions around the United States like New York Comic Con, C2E2, & Emerald City Comic Con; and adult stores like Good Vibration, The Pleasure Chest, Early to Bed, & Mister Sister. Max's foray into cosplaying started because of a strong resemblance to a certain sex-positive mechanic traveling aboard a Firefly class spaceship. They can be found at AskKayleeFrye.com and Twixt-MyNethers.com

Lena G. is thrilled to be attending Arisia again after three years away. She is science nerd, bookworm, video gamer. She loves anything involving pirates, Harry Potter, Assassin's Creed, and Once Upon a Time.

Ken Gale's first published story, "Swords in the World Series", was recently reprinted by Dark Horse & he also had sales to DC Comics. He had an eco-horror story in *Psychosis #2*. He's editor and co-publisher of *Dangerous Times* and *New Frontiers for Evolution Comics*, a producer and host for two radio shows on WBAI-FM in NYC: one on ecology and one on comic books. He was on the Board of the Celtic League American Branch and a former math textbook writer. www.comicbookradioshow.com & ecoradio.org.

Jaime Garmendia was the Convention Chair of Arisia 2018. He is also a member of the Boston Comics Roundtable where he writes, produces, publicizes, and markets independent comics of all genres. His first published game is the Wuxing Empire expansion for Your Move Games' Battleground tactical tabletop wargame. Jaime is also the Chair of Transportation Camp New England 2020. In his secret identity, he is a lifelong public servant.

Paul Geromini Spectacularly average software engineer, fan of video games, scifi tv, history, anime, and firearms. Creator of AMVs when the mood strikes.

Greer Gilman Tiptree, World Fantasy, Greer, of the Gilman kind, Writes—and has written of Jonson and Cloud; Gives airy nothing a Life and a larynx, in Mythopoetical Ink, and aloud. Her mythic fantasies are Cloud & Ashes: Three Winter's Tales and Moonwise. Her metaphysical mysteries set in 1600 London are Cry Murder! In a Small Voice (Shirley Jackson Award) and Exit, Pursued by a Bear. She likes to say she does everything James Joyce ever did, only backward and in high heels.

Julia Gilstein is a fantasy writer, editor, medievalist, tea addict, and cosplayer. She is the lead organizer for New England Aces, as well as a member of the Boston Speculative Fiction Writing Group (B-Spec), Boston Sci-Fi/Fantasy Meetup, Boston Shakespeare Lovers, and Dress Up Boston. When her nose isn't buried in a book, Julia can often be found procrastinating on Etsy, perusing the NaNoWriMo forums, and petting all the good doggos. Keep up with Julia on Twitter @JGilstein.

Tanya Gold is a book editor, writing coach, translator, and literary omnivore with a thing for plastic dinosaurs. She's

worked on all kinds of cool books over her past 20 years in publishing. These days, she edits fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry.

Timothy O. Goyette was born, raised, and lives in New Hampshire. He is the Editor of Quantum Muse, and online webzine. He runs the online writing groups at Quantum Muse. He is also the editor of Quantum Muse Books. He has a collection of short stories titled: Digital Voodoo and a far future science fiction Novel: *Lockdown*.

Lore Graham (ze/zir or they/them) is an agender author of speculative fiction and poetry. Zir work has been published in *Strange Horizons*, *Vulture Bones*, and *Liminality*, among other venues. Lore lives in Malden with zir partners and zir cat. You can find out more about Lore and zir publications at grahamlore.com or on twitter (@grahamlore).

Sid Hackney is a software engineer (read: professional nerd) and an admin for the occasionally-rabid fan group The Boston Whovians! Though largely composed of cat hair, Sid is indeed human and a long-time fan of all things geek. One-time artists alley artist and avid cosplayer, they have played through the entirety of Resident Evil 5—twice.

James Hailer

Andrea Hairston is author of *Will Do Magic For Small Change*, a New York Times Editor's pick and finalist for the Mythopoeic, Lambda, and Tiptree Awards. Other novels: *Redwood and Wildfire*, Tiptree and Carl Brandon Award winner, and *Mindscape*, Carl Brandon Award winner. She has published essays, plays, and short fiction and received grants from the NEA, Rockefeller and Ford Foundation. Andrea is a Professor of Theatre at Smith College. Tor.com will publish *Master of Poisons* in Sept 2020.

Phillip Hallam-Baker A member of the CERN team that developed the World Wide Web, Dr Hallam-Baker is a leading designer of cryptographic protocols. In his spare time he builds daleks, Tardises, and is trying to finish a Han in Carbonite.

Forest Handford is an author from Fitchburg, MA. While not at work, she's bringing her family on wacky adventures. Her website is EastCoastGames.com where she publishes video and writings about various topics. Forest also founded VoteSquared.org, the site for rating politicians. Forest has published a novel called *Cyber Revolution* about gender equity in tech and how tech companies can fight against bad governments. She's currently finishing an LGBT sci-fi romance novel.

Jeff Hecht writes about science and technology for magazines including *New Scientist*, *Laser Focus World*, *IEEE Spectrum*, *Nature*, and *Sky & Telescope* on topics from planetary science and lasers to dinosaurs. His latest book, *Lasers, Death Rays, and the Long Strange Quest for the Ultimate Weapon*, is from Prometheus Books. His short fiction has appeared in *Nature Futures*, *Little Blue Marble*, *Analog*, *Asimov's*, *Daily*



Science Fiction, Twilight Zone, Interzone, Odyssey and several anthologies.

Lisa Hertel is an artist who works in clay and watercolors, but also uses alcohol inks, encaustics (painting with wax), and more. In her spare time, she helps run science fiction conventions, including being the chair of Arisia 2014. Before becoming an artist, Lisa was a pharmacist for over 25 years. Visit her at her studio, The Cogitation Zone, in Haverhill, where she offers art classes for children and adults, or find her online.

Andy Hicks is a public broadcasting producer at that one station you've heard of. He has a YouTube channel where he talks about Doctor Who and sings silly songs about Doctor Who. He's a Geeks Who Drink quizmaster, a musician, a writer, an actor, a voice actor, a sound designer, an occasional podcaster and—every now and then—a panda. His wife had a kid this year. The kid is pretty nifty.

Lee C. Hillman (Gwendolyn Grace) Since dying at the age of 13 months, “Gwenly” has amassed a number of vocations, including author, editor, actor, singer, songwriter, conference planner, administrator, role-player, fanfic writer, SCA Laurel, and big damn geek. A native of western New York and proud Bostonian for many years, she was most recently spotted as an independent contractor in Pittsburgh, where she hopes her genderfluid, atheist, bisexual liberal vote will make more of a difference. She finds pronoun choice stressful.

Naomi Hinchen is a video game developer who lives in Cambridge. She co-writes and acts in the podcast *Crime and Space*, about a pair of space thieves getting in trouble. In her spare time (ha!) she plays the ukulele and is working on a novel. She also occasionally blogs at <https://asinclinationleadsme.wordpress.com/>, usually about various bits of pop culture.

James Hinsey is a life-long lover of science fiction and fantasy in various media forms. He is a Potterhead, Trekker, Browncoat, Costumer, book-collector, RISFC member, Sci-Fi Journal co-host, Psi Upsilon brother, RPI alum, former naval officer, brother, son, uncle, husband, and father. He is currently Arisia '20 Masquerade Director and has been for the past 5 years, and has worked as Masquerade staff since 2010. SamuraiX47 on social media.

Anastasia Holt I have been sewing for 18 years, I have been competing and costuming for about 12 years. I have learned many techniques from the many mentors and friends I possess. I am constantly learning about different things like armor and beading. I am still honing my skills as a costumer and am always eager to teach others what I know. I have recently been getting more and more interested in historical costuming as well as more interested in original designs.

Melissa Honig is the lead organizer for the Watch City Steampunk Festival in Waltham, MA, and also for the

2020 Browncoat Ball in Salem, MA. She likes to hang out with the New England Browncoats and the Boston SciFi/Fantasy Meetup Group. She enjoys steampunk, costuming, weird crafts, and playing with the stuff she finds while trying to clean up the craft room so she doesn't have to finish cleaning up.

Sol Eidan Houser is 17 disabilities in a glittery rainbow trench coat attending their second Arisia as staff/program participant & sixth overall. They are an art historian & classicist from California who works as an executive assistant for money & as Arisia, Inc's clerk for free. Sol prefers the worldbuilding, character development, & plot parts of writing over actually making sentences and paragraphs do the thing. Describe them in four words? Chaotic neutral double Taurus.

Diana Hsu has been involved with conventions of one sort or another since 2005, and has been speaking about issues around race, feminism, and social justice in fan spaces since 2011. She is also the Convention Chair for Arisia 2020. Maybe you saw her on TV that one time.

Walter H. Hunt is a Massachusetts SF and historical fiction writer. He was author GOH in 2009. His novels in the “Dark Wing” Universe are available in the Baen e-book library; a Templar novel (*A Song In Stone*), two about mesmerism (*Elements of Mind* and *Harmony In Light*, both from Wordfire Press), and a novel in the Ring of Fire universe with Eric Flint (*1636: The Cardinal Virtues*). His latest novel with Eric is *Council of Fire*. He is librarian for the Masonic Grand Lodge in Boston.

Aran P. Ink I'm a queer, trans (genderqueer!) nerd with a variety of skills and interests. I'm a professional software engineer (currently working on Android at Google), but I spent my free time making music, video games, movies, and art, many of which reflect my experiences with gender and identity.

Alexander Jablovok's most recent published story was “How Sere Picked Up Her Laundry”, the first of a series of novellas. The next one is coming out in the Jan/Feb 2019 *Asimov's*. His most recent novel is *Brain Thief*, a fast-paced AI-hunting adventure. He is the author of five other novels, including *Carve the Sky*, *Nimbus*, and *Deepdrive*, and a number of short stories. His website is www.ajablokov.com. He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Victoria Janssen reviews for Publishers Weekly. Her last novel, *The Duke and the Pirate Queen*, is fantasy erotica from Harlequin (2010). “Still Marching,” her most recent short story appears in *Best Lesbian Erotica of the Year, Volume 3*. For a full publications list, visit victoriajanssen.com. Other interests include fanfiction, fan studies, comics, classic Dr. Who, World War One, choral singing, and fighting the patriarchy. She's on Twitter @victoriajanssen.

Kristin Janz was born in Vancouver, Canada, and has since moved across the continent three times, most recently

to the Boston area in 1998. She is a Clarion West graduate whose fiction has appeared in *Escape Pod*, *Daily Science Fiction*, and *On Spec*. Along with her husband, Donald S. Crankshaw, she is a co-editor/publisher of online magazine *Mysterion*—featuring stories that engage meaningfully with Christianity from a variety of perspectives.

Frederic Jennings is a lawyer and hacker who represents clients in cybercrime and digital privacy cases across the country. Currently, he is an attorney for GitHub. He handles copyright and trademark matters, security and privacy, and digital forensics. Prior to that, he was Lead Researcher at the International Legal Foundation, an international NGO that champions access to legal counsel in post- and mid-conflict countries. He is also general counsel for an occult bookstore in Brooklyn, New York.

Renie Jesanis (she/her) writes, draws, and edits sci-fi and urban fantasy comics, including her Magical Girl webcomic *Kate Blast*. She is also the prism-award-nominated editor of the Comics Anthology *Being True: An LGBT Comics Anthology* and is an active member of the Boston Comics Roundtable.

Emperor Joey-1 Joey the First is a writer, cartoonist, beauty contest champion, organizer, A.N.T.I.F.A. super supersoldier, evil wizard and the officially ratified and Emperor of Anti-Imperialism.

Leslie Johnston

Rachel Kadel

A. L. Kaplan's love of books started as a child in scenic northern New Jersey, and sparked a creative imagination. Her most recent publications are her debut novel, *Star Touched*, and “Wolf Dawn”, a short story. She is the Maryland Writers' Association's Vice President and holds an MFA in sculpture. When not writing or indulging in her fascination with wolves, A. L. is the props manager for a local theatre. Visit: ALKaplanAuthor.com

Kate Kaynak was born and raised in New Jersey, but she managed to escape. After serving a 5-year sentence in grad school, she taught psychology around the world for University of Maryland. While in Turkey, she started a conversation with a handsome stranger in an airport... and ended up marrying him. They now live in New Hampshire with their three kids, where she founded Spencer Hill Press in 2010 and wrote the Ganzfeld series. She now facilitates leadership programs with The Jennings Group.

Megan Kearns is a film critic, the Managing Editor of Bitch Flicks, and the co-host of the podcast Spoilerpiece Theatre. Her work has also appeared at Women and Hollywood, Bitch Media, Silver Century Foundation, and Everyday Feminism, among other sites and publications. She's also a queer feminist vegan and a life-long sci-fi fan.

Abigail Keenan is a big ol' nerd and a connoisseur of all

things geeky and/or kinky. They are the owner of Untamed Undies, a feminist and geeky company that provides undies, pasties, and toys for folks across the gender spectrum. They write a blog about sex ed which can be found at www.untamedundies.com.

Rachel Kenley is the author of seven novels as well as several shorts and novellas. She started reading romances at fourteen and credits them with her lifelong fascination with relationships and how they influence our lives. She desperately needs her morning coffee, never misses the chance to watch *The Wizard of Oz*, and believes in the joy and importance of retail therapy. She is currently the President of writers organization Broad Universe and can be found online at www.rachelkenley.net.

Angela Kessler In an effort to make all the things, Angela Kessler has so far tried sewing, crochet, knitting, needle felting, embroidery, bookbinding, rugbraiding, woodburning, cheesemaking, canning, glass etching, lucet cord, and tablet weaving (varying from a single completed project through decades of experience). She also enjoys morris dance, Kalevala storytelling, and singing. She has studied but has not yet gotten around to actually trying shoemaking, soapmaking, wet felting, and dyeing.

Jeremy H. Kessler lives in Greater Boston where he is an instigator, singer, morris dancer, musician, cheesemaker, drinker, and co-developer of the only known kosher boar's head. He co-runs local traditional sings like pub and chanterey sings. He is the squire of the only Greater Boston morris team to dance the AntiMorris. He danced the AntiMorris for Terry Pratchett himself, and is quite proud that said author described it—in Wintersmith's author's note—as “a bit creepy.”

Roy Kilgard Dr. Kilgard is an astrophysicist who researches black holes in nearby galaxies with an emphasis on intermediate-mass black holes: an enigmatic class of objects whose origins are unclear, but which may help explain the supermassive black holes observed at the centers of galaxies. His lectures cover a wide variety of astronomical topics, including black holes and galaxies, X-ray astronomy, historical astronomy, and astrostatistics. He is also an incurable nit-picker of sci-fi minutiae.

Ken Kingsgrave-Ernstein by day is a Systems Engineer with a strong problem solving background. At night, on the weekends, a especially at conventions he is a photographer, costumer, crafter, kinkster, and occasional stage technician.

Ellen Kranzer has been attending science fiction conventions for over 30 years and making music even longer. Filk lets her mix the two hobbies. Ellen is a founding member of MASSFILC and the club's current treasurer. She has been involved in planning numerous conventions both in and out of fandom.

Sioban Krzywicki I've had my first short story pub-



lished in the *Hidden Youth* anthology. I've been helping run Readercon in various roles for about 7 years and am entering my third year as Readercon conchair.

Alisa Kwitney is a freelance editor and the author of the DC Comics Prestige Miniseries *Mystik U*, which features Zatanna and other magical folks in their first year at a college for magic. Alisa has also written the YA novels *Cadaver & Queen* and *Corpse & Crown* and a new Poe-inspired story for Ahoy Comics' *Snifter of Terror*. A former editor at Vertigo/DC Comics, Alisa teaches graphic novel writing at Manhattanville College and performs with Hudson Valley Improv.

Marnen Laibow-Koser is a composer and multi-instrumentalist, performing actively at concerts, theater productions, and folk dances in the Boston and New York areas; he is currently in the process of setting the Mueller Report to music. He can also be found developing software, reading about the dark corners of linguistics, engaging in corpus analysis on the Voynich Manuscript, knitting fun lacy stuff, or doing weird kinky things with consenting partners. For more information, check out <http://www.marnen.org!>

Cassandra Lease is a Boston native and lifelong geek who writes on AO3 as Themiscyra, cosplays as Amazon Pink, and sculpts handmade clay charms and oddments. Her favorite fandoms include Star Trek, Power Rangers, Seanan McGuire/Mira Grant, Wonder Woman, and Disney (especially *The Little Mermaid*). In her spare time, she enjoys playing tabletop RPGs and first-person shooters, visiting theme parks, devouring horror stories and films, and hanging with her cats.

LB Lee is a multivarious entity who was raised by imaginary wolves in a subconscious barn. They make mental health comics, draw pretty pictures, and write stories about reality melting. You should talk to them.

Scott Lefton makes and sells artwork in media including metal, wood, glass, and Photoshop, is occasionally serious about photography, and works as a freelance mechanical designer and patent agent. He lives in a big old Victorian house in Melrose, MA with his wife Rachel.

Brian Liberge is Brian. Other Brian descriptors include but are not limited to Dad, Genderqueer, Queer, Game Designer, and Theatre "kid".

Gordon Linzner is founder of *Space and Time Magazine*, author of three published novels and dozens of short stories in *F&SF*, *Twilight Zone*, *Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine*, and numerous other magazines and anthologies, most recently *Footprints in the Stars*, *The Mountains of Madness Revealed*, and the forthcoming *Across the Universe*.

Jesi Lipp has been in fandom their entire life—they attended their first convention before they were born. Their geeky interests include Harry Potter, theatre, D&D, and

conrunning. Jesi works as a grants accountant at the rape crisis center in Kansas City, engaging their love of data and numbers, as well as their passion for social justice and intersectional feminism.

Kyri Lorenz is an award-winning cartoonist with deep roots in fandom. Chronic physical and mental illness, gender and sexuality, and Old World spiritual longing are all intrinsic themes in their work. If it involves creation and inspiration, Kyri is there, getting their mitts all over it and learning how best to make it serve their whims. Their greatest wish is to be adopted by Batman and become the new Robin.

Bhadrika Love What I am: A psych nurse. A psych NP, even. Short, pink, bi, cis.

Mike Luoma writes and publishes science fiction and comic books, produces the "Glow-in-the-Dark Radio" podcast, and can be found daily on internet radio WBKM.org—"Burlington's Kinda Music". Since his Vatican Assassin Trilogy, Mike has been chronicling *The Adventures of Alibi Jones*, including *Alibi Jones and The Star Seeds Of Earth*—coming in May 2020. Mike's Graphic Novels include *Good Samaritan: Unto Dust*, *Introducing... RED Hot!* and more. Info at MikeLuoma.com / glowinthedarkradio.com.

Corinne Luz is an artist, writer, and film podcaster living in Salem, MA. She is Co-Host of the film podcast 'CinemaSpection' (www.CinemaSpection.com) and has been a guest on other media podcasts including *The Projection Booth*. As a writer, judge, and moderator she has contributed to Salem Horror Fest. Under the pseudonym Quill Shiv, her fiction has appeared in several anthologies. She can be contacted on Twitter: @TheLadyLatte, or by email: corinnemluz@gmail.com.

Timothy Luz From countless hours spent working in video stores to long nights at the theater surviving movie marathons, Tim Luz has spent his life surrounded by movies. A former film critic and occasional short filmmaker, he possesses a mind full of useless film trivia and a tendency to talk movies with anyone in earshot, qualities that led him to create *CinemaSpection*, a film discussion podcast he co-hosts with his lovely and very patient wife Corinne.

melissa macintyre I am a product of an unlikely match between a Hungarian holocaust survivor and a Depression-era Iowan. I've had my struggles; writing and talking about them helps me learn and cope. I love doing anything with friends, my family, nature, political activism, cooking and baking, music and dance of most kinds, and crafting of many kinds. My son and many of his contemporaries, along with therapy practices and physical activity give me hope for the future of the world.

Aaron Marks In his day job, Aaron works in the energy sector, most recently in data analytics. In his free time, though, Aaron is an avid gamer, publishing advice, reviews,

and opinions about tabletop roleplaying games under the nom de plume “Level One Wonk” for Cannibal Halfling Gaming. Aaron has been roleplaying for nearly 18 years, and dabbles in video games, board games, and LARP as well. Aaron’s other hobbies include writing, bicycling, and auto and bicycle repair.

Dan “Grim” Marsh is a member of the Society of Creative Anarchism as Grim the Skald; at this point pretty much just his family and co-workers call him “Dan.” He considers himself knowledgeable in the following things, in order of how much he knows: Norse Poetry, Norse Culture, Alliterative Poetry in general (particularly Old English and 14th Century), Medieval (particularly English) poetry in general, Medieval costuming, and Medieval/Renaissance combat. Yes, he likes to fight, but he likes poetry a lot.

B. Diane Martin began reading science fiction at age nine and never stopped. She has a law degree and advises startups in various technologies. She admits to experience as a parent, a gamer, a baker, and a heavy metal backup singer. She is included in the Hugo nominated *The Bakery That Men Don’t See* and was a World Fantasy Award nominee for her work with Readercon. Diane lives in a Somerville, MA, Victorian home filled with books, games, music, anime, and cookware.

Marianna Martin PhD A PhD in Cinema and Media studies and founder of Genretastic.com, Marianna’s lifelong fascination with the structures of genre storytelling led to an abiding love of everything pertaining to Marvel—and a dissertation on framing genre theory in contexts like Marvel! After an interlude working in Development in the US film and television industry, she left to pursue her own projects. She now splits her time amongst her editorial duties at Genretastic, cons, and completing her debut SF novel.

Donna Martinez is a freelance cartoonist originally from New Mexico and has been a resident of Boston for almost 20 years. Donna is also a member of the Boston Comics Roundtable, contributing stories to *Inbound*, *Hellbound*, *The Greatest Comics Anthology of All Time*, and issues #1 and #3 of *A Single Bound*. She is presently happily married to fellow Round Table writer/cartoonist Joey Peters. She dreams of houses and places yet unseen but are waiting to be revealed.

Milo Martinez is a semi-professional costumer living in Cambridge. His interests include leather working, costuming technology, craftwork (armor, casting, etc), and villainy. An avid maker since childhood, he uses mixed media and unconventional approaches to solve costuming challenges.

Rebecca Maxfield is a fantasy fan, theatre director, and coder living in Providence, RI. She’s interested in how media/narrative form serves or affects the stories we tell (and especially in liveness in theatre), in the ways real-life history was more diverse than you think, and in stories about women crossdressing to do epic stuff (and possibly

become involved with other women).

Rich Maynard

Matthew McComb

John G. McDaid is a short story writer and folk/filk musician. His fiction has appeared in Asimov’s and F&SF. A Clarion ‘93 grad, he won the Sturgeon Award for his 1995 story “Jigoku no mokushiroku.” In 2017, he won both the topical and “Iron Filker” songwriting contests at OVFF, with songs featured on his new album “Proverbs of Hell” (<http://bit.ly/proverbsofhell>). His latest interactive fiction, “We Knew The Glass Man,” appeared in *Cream City Review* in June. [@jmcdaid](http://harddeadlines.com)

Craig R McDonough

Liam McGlohon

Kevin McLaughlin is a USA Today bestselling author of science fiction and fantasy novels, with over thirty books published. He has been a speaker at Boskone, Dragon Con, the Nebula Conference, 20Books, and other events. He believes in giving back to the writing community that helped him out during the early days of his career, so he uses his experience and success to boost others that the chain of writers helping writers continues unbroken.

Amos Meeks

Caroline Meeks has training in Journey Dance and Core Shamanism and is excited to be offering her first program at Arisia. Caroline has been a fan since her parents yelled “down in front” during the original run of *Star Trek* and learned to love reading when her uncle gave her the *Narnia* series. Her grandfather was a huge fan of *Lensman* series and lent them all to her as a kid. Caroline’s professional interests include educational technology and computer programming for children and teens.

Michael Meissner Professionally, I am a computer programmer and I work on enhancing the Gnu compiler collection.

Penny Messier Self-proclaimed geek and couch potato Penny never seems to find enough time in the day for the latter... In an exclusive interview with said couch, interviewers found a very disgruntled sofa: “She’s always gone! Her driver’s seat gets more attention than I do! That’s it, the water bed and I are going on strike!”... Hi, my name is Penny and I would like to apologize for my couch; it’s normally a very nice sofa but lately it gone a bit flat. Anyways this is me quirky but fun!!!

Dale Meyer-Curley (she/her/hers) has been an active volunteer with Arisia for over a decade, and a panelist for half as many years. Her geeky interests span many genres including comics, fantasy novels, sci-fi shows, and board games. Dale credits her mother as her main geeky influ-



ence, including her making her watch the “scary man in the vacuum cleaner,” that she realized was Davros 30 years later in a cinema screening of the Fourth Doctor’s “Genesis of the Daleks.”

Danny Miller is a local attorney and all-around SF/F fan since high school who has always seen Arisia as his home convention. He used to have several pieces printed in the local Jewish paper, some even relating to SF/F, and some even paying; he is currently in grad school for a perpendicular change in his career. He once turned the tap dance into his crusade, and enjoys (gently) converting the uninitiated into the worlds of assorted geekery. (Or, at least inviting them to a pub trivia event.)

Mark Millman is a member of the Salem Zouaves/Salem Trayned Band military re-enactment unit, which portrays citizen militias of the 1630s and the early 1860s, and of the Commonwealth Vintage Dancers, New England’s premier vintage-dance company, which performs dances of the Federal, Civil War, Gilded Age, Ragtime, and Roaring Twenties eras. Both groups make their own historically accurate clothing and perform period movement disciplines. He is also a long-time HEMA student and teacher.

Troy Minkowsky is a Boston based filmmaker and avid comicbook reader since 1993. His production company Rhinocrate has produced the short films “SuperLife”, “The Garden 1910” and “Boxed In”. RhinoCrate is finishing the horror short “The Leaves” and are starting production on their first feature “Destructor”

James Mobius is the creator of the comic book Punk rock alien space girl adventures. He holds degrees in music and electronics so he fixes houses for a living. He has attended Every Arisia, builds musical instruments, paints, draws, did theatrical lighting for the Teseracte players of Boston for 20 odd years but has retired, has lived in Japan, is a former Chocolatier, and built his own Tardis which is actually bigger on the inside. his favourite colour is purple and his religion is Kate Bush.

Richard Moore Presently, I am an instructor teaching data science, cloud computing and Hadoop courses. Previously I have held a number of different technology jobs. More importantly, I have volunteered at every Arisia, and a few other conventions too.

Sarah “Tashari” Morrison is a fantasy and children’s book illustrator. In her “spare time” she sews gowns with hoop skirts. Find her work at Tashari.Org.

Daniel Neff I am a museum curator, historian, and genealogist, currently working for the Fairbanks House Museum in Dedham, MA. I specialize in colonial American history, the history of medicine, and the history of marginalization. When I’m not working I like X-men comics, table-top role playing games, Harry Potter, and Pokemon Go.

Benjamin Newman has been filking since his college

friends dragged him to his first convention his freshman year at Swarthmore. Since then, he has written over 200 songs on a wide range of topics, including SF and fantasy, science, computers, and religion, both singly and in various whimsical juxtapositions. Ben has also organized filk programming for Philcon, ConCertino, and Pi-con.

Anne E.G. Nydam Essentially self-taught artist making mostly relief block prints, primarily self-published author writing mostly juvenile mostly fantasy, former middle school teacher still making classroom guest visits whenever possible, current stay-at-home mother, and negligent housekeeper, Anne has been creating fantasy worlds since childhood and continues to bring wide-ranging curiosity and imagination to the work of art, writing, and teaching.

John O’Neil

A.J. Odasso has been widely published in fandom and non-fandom contexts since 2005. Their debut poetry collection, *Lost Books*, was a finalist for the 2010/2011 People’s Book Prize. Their second collection, *The Dishonesty of Dreams*, followed in 2014. Their third collection, *The Sting of It*, was shortlisted for the 2017 Sexton Prize and was published in 2019 by Tolsun Books—and won Best LGBT Book at the 2019 New Mexico/Arizona Book Awards. They serve as Senior Poetry Editor at *Strange Horizons*.

David Olsen is an all-around geek who will happily talk your ear off about stories and games. Since he first received the D&D Redbox at age nine, he’s played in dozens of worlds and systems, including GMing a few LARPs over the years. He’s done game testing for various independent companies, including Firehose Games and Choice of Games and even voice acting work for Reactive Studios. You can catch him as a background actor in various feature films or as the fourth season winner of “Beauty and the Geek.”

Kevin Osborn Maker, Inventor, and lover of the creative!

Lisa Padol is a second generation SF fan, a filker, a gamer, and a player and writer of LARPS. She sings adequately and consistently fails to identify harp tunes when her spouse, Joshua Kronengold, is noodling around on the harp.

Mark Painter has worked as an engineer and has practiced law in the field of disability rights. He served in elected office for 17 years, culminating in a stint in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Jennifer Pelland is a science fiction author turned belly-dancer. For more, visit www.jenniferpelland.com or www.tassellations.com

Melissa Perreira-Andrews Fat and louder than necessary, Melissa is a blogger that hails from a fishing town north of Boston. As a brassy and sassy, sorted into Ravenclaw

but drawn to Slytherin, intersectional feminist, Melissa writes about her rabid response to pop culture as well as the reality of being fat in our world. When not dreaming of world domination and body liberation or being a cog in the corporate machine, she is the Creative Director for the Tesseract Players of Boston.

Israel Peskowitz (Izzy) is a professional photographer, proficient plumber, a skilled community activist, and amateur fan.

BH Pierce is a new author with a trilogy of novellas, *The Atelva Chronicles*, as well as a stand-alone novel, *The Rozeen Rising*. As a perpetual and compulsive worldbuilder he serves on the staff of *Worldbuilding Magazine* and is working on a series of culture-building guides for other people crafting their own worlds.

Monique “Moniquill” Poirier is a councilwoman of the Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe and a lineal descendant of Ousamequin Massasoit. She is an avid costumer, and active member of the steampunk community. Her work in steampunk has been featured at *Beyond Victoriana*, *Silver Goggles*, and in the books *Anatomy of Steampunk: The Fashion of Victorian Futurism*, *Steampunk III: Steampunk Revolution*, *Speculative Imperialisms: Monstrosity and Masquerade in Postracial Times*, and *Steaming Into a Victorian Future: A Steampunk Anthology*. She has blogged, essayed, and discussed extensively across many platforms the depictions of NDN and NDN-coded characters in sci-fi and fantasy, and would like to help other authors better understand how to produce respectful and well thought out indigenous characters and what the common pitfalls are in doing so.

Steve E Popkes, his wife, son, dog and cat breed turtles on two acres in Massachusetts. He has been publishing science fiction and fantasy since 1986. He has three novels to his name: *Caliban Landing*, *Slow Lightning* and *Welcome to Witchlandia*. When he’s disguised as a normal person, he is an aerospace software engineer.

Dr. Jim Prego is an adjunct professor of Biology at Long Island University, Molloy College, and Nassau Community College. He is a recipient of NYANP’s Physician of the Year award. He enjoys science fiction, biological topics, and many other topics both science and non-science related. He spent 10 years as the NY Delegate to the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians and 6 years as a board member of the NYANP. He is involved in acting/shadowcasting, EMS, alt-lifestyles, gaming, and more.

Hannah Prum (aka Kirkette Cosplay) is a cosplayer and part-time human being based out of Boston Massachusetts. She enjoys reading frankly ludicrous amounts of fanfiction and falling asleep every night in a pile of dogs. She thinks *Batman Forever* is the best *Batman* movie of all time and she WILL fight you about it.

Antonia Pugliese a graduate student in Microbiology.

She teaches historical dancing, and performs with the Commonwealth Vintage Dancers. When she isn’t sewing historical garments, she might be making superhero costumes.

Barbara Menard Pugliese is a historian of both clothing and dance. She has been Artistic Director of the Commonwealth Vintage Dancers since 2007. Barbara teaches historical dance in the Boston area and has been invited to teach in England, Austria, Denmark and Germany.

Julia Pugliese is a barista by day and a magical girl by night.

Tori Queeno, 26, is the founder and President of the Boston Whovians, a Boston-based Doctor Who fangroup. Tori is currently pursuing an MFA in Creative Nonfiction at the Solstice Program at Pine Manor College and was awarded the 2018 Kurt Brown Fellowship for Diverse Voices. They can also be regularly seen performing with The Post Meridian Radio Players. Tori spends the rest of their time trying to be a “real adult” and/or a professional nerd, with their partner, two cats, and a hedgehog.

Richard Ralston has been a fan of science fiction and anime since the late 60’s. Rick has been staffing conventions the past 18 years on the local and regional level. Rick is also the organizer of the local anime group in Albany, NY. Rick brings a unique point of view to the fandom community.

Ian Randal Stroch (www.IanRandalStroch.com) is the editor and publisher of *Fantastic Books* (www.FantasticBooks.biz) and an author of science fiction and non-fiction. He has published three books on the presidency of the US (with Random House and Carrel Books) and had stories in *Analog*, *Nature*, and several anthologies. He was previously an editor with *Artemis*, *Asimov’s*, *Analog*, *The Daily Free Press*, and *Science Fiction Chronicle*. He is also the Northeast Regional Vice Chairman of American Mensa.

Tikva (aka raycho) is attending her bazillionth Arisia, and her fifth? sixth? what even are numbers anyway? as a panelist. She is kind of like a very swearsy golden retriever. She’s a public health geek, disability activist, baseball addict, and member of a poly family/household. She is fond of pie. You may recognize her via her trusty guide dog, who is small in size but large in swagger. Please do not pet either her or the dog without a whole lot of permission.

Suzanne Reynolds-Alpert writes horror, scifi, dark fantasy, and the occasional poem. Her short fiction had been published in the anthologies *The Final Summons* and *Killing It Softly* (Vol. 1). Her poetry has appeared in the *HWA Poetry Showcase Vol. VI*, the anthologies *Beneath Strange Skies* and *Wicked Witches*, *The Wayfarer*, and *Eternal Haunted Summer*. Suzanne is a freelance editor and writer, a technical services librarian, cat owner, and has degrees in Communication and Sociology.



Mark W. Richards Fan, SMOF, & kinkster, starting as an SF reader as soon as I could reach the bookshelf. Found fandom as a teen, kink as an adult. Involved on committees & staff for events & served on club boards, both fannish & kink. My latest is a new convention, HELIOSphere, now in its 4th year. Equally comfortable discussing literary SF & fantasy, fanzines, kink, & sexual politics, preferably over a couple of pints, but I've enjoyed the experience of doing so in front of an audience at Arisia.

Santiago Rivas is celebrating over 40 years as a sci-fi enthusiast. It was his time at MIT that he became an avid film, theater, poly, and gamer geek. He has been involved with Theatre@First for fifteen years and the Heinlein Society Naughty Nurses for over ten years, writing, directing, and starring in skits for the annual Blood Drive. In his copious spare time, he's blogging, acting, updating tropes pages, spending time with redheads, and raising an advanced prototype.

Lee Clever Roberts is a Salem, MA based artist and cosplayer. They are best known for their Mr. Clever cosplay, which has been featured in The Nerdist, The Mary Sue, multiple BBC sites and in Doctor Who magazine. Lee is actively involved in the Cosplay is Not Consent movement, having recently become an admin for an Anti-Bullying group, The Blue Box Alliance. In their spare time, they volunteer as a foster home for cats and train horses.

Shaheen Rogers/Multiverse My name is Shaheen Rogers, Brooklyn born, now living in Jersey City. Staff writer and facilitator for Entropic Endeavors' Velvet Noir Larp. And frequent facilitator for Sinking Ship Creations in New York. Avowed nerd as long as I can remember. From Battle of the Planets (Gatchaman) to My Hero Academia, I've been an anime head. From EE Doc Smith's Lensmen series to Brandon Sanderson's Stormlight Archives, I've been a lover Sci/Fi/Fantasy novels. A black geek and proud of it.

Mink Rose has been a part of the Arisia community for years, even before she began regularly attending in 2007. Mink served as the first Chair of the Diversity Committee for Arisia 2016, and helped with diversity work in the Programming division through Arisia 2019. She does her best to support intersectional feminist work everywhere possible. She remains an imperfect human being who is doing her best to get everyone to save the world. (ask me how!)

Andy Rosequist generally tries to make the world a better place. He's been involved with Arisia at various staff responsibilities for a number of years. He works in tech, plays games, and is a facial hair enthusiast.

A Joseph Ross has been in fandom since the 1960's. In 1964, he founded the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) Science Fiction Society, then later became a member of MITSFS and NESFA, serving as Vice President of NESFA from 1970-72. He edited Volume I of the NESFA Hymnal in the late 1970's. He was Clerk of Arisia, Incorporated from 1990-92 and President from 1992-94. He is a

practicing attorney and an expert in landlord-tenant law.

Karen S. Part-time voice actor, podcaster, and writer of ridiculous fannish fictions. Full-time geek and fanboy dork with a particular fondness for cartoons, blooper reels, turtles of the ninja variety, and the Technical Director of the Post Meridian Radio Players.

Eyal Sagi is a professor of Psychology at a liberal arts college. His research deals with how language and text color our perspective. Recently, this research has focused on the expression of moral values in political and legal texts. His other interests include how the structure of a story reflects its genre, and how language can be used to promote character development. He also has extensive background in computing and computer science from both the software and hardware perspectives.

Liz Salazar is a playwright, director, GM, chainmailler, a podcaster between podcasts, and overall opinion-haver. At Arisia, she is usually seen among the Post-Meridian Radio Players or otherwise getting in someone's way.

Carol Salemi is a master Costumer who has worked over 40 years in many aspects of costuming including designing, fabricating, teaching, judging and masquerade directing. Her more recent work can be seen on TLC's "My Big Fat American Gypsy Wedding". She's a medical massage therapist (30 years), works for Regal Cinemas, Sondra Celli Designs, has jobs in the Haunt Industry and likes making Steampunk items...check out her jewelry in the Art Show!

Sharon Sbarsky was Fan Guest of Honor at Arisia 2000, chaired Smofcon 15, Boskone 40 & 49, ran the Masquerade at Arisias and Sasquan, ran the Hugo Ceremony at Renovation, was Events Division Head at Worldcon 76 and co-chaired Costume-Con 37 in 2019 in Danvers, MA. She creates web sites for fun and work.

Micah Schneider is a long-time veteran of Arisia, both on programming and staff. Micah completed his Masters in history and public history from UMass Amherst, but somehow became a math teacher. In his free time, Micah enjoys running, highpointing, hiking, all kinds of gaming (especially cards games like Magic and Pokemon), and being polyamorous as often as possible. He lives in Western Massachusetts with his family of choice, their three children, and a small coterie of animal companions.

Cate Schneiderman enjoys consuming lots of media in the form of books, podcasts, television shows, and movies. She will happily go on at length about a number of topics including GoT, Outlander, Shakespeare, superheroes, and the future of libraries. She also enjoys games and costuming. In her professional capacity she promotes the use of the college library by hanging posters and giving away candy. She is also the host of the Shakesplaining podcast.

Sam Schreiber is a writer and editor living in Brooklyn, New York. His work has appeared in Vastarien: A Liter-

ary Journal, Tales to Terrify, Occult Detective Quarterly, Martian Migraine Press, PodCastle and Analog Science Fiction and Fact. He is one of the editors and co-hosts of the speculative fiction audio magazine the Kaleidocast (currently in its second season!). He also teaches Science Fiction and Fantasy at New York University's Tandon School of Engineering.

Meredith Schwartz is executive editor and editor of science fiction and fantasy reviews for Library Journal, but unless she explicitly says otherwise, she is only speaking for herself, not the magazine. Her short fiction appeared in *Strange Horizons*, *Reflection's Edge*, and *Sleeping Beauty, Indeed*. She edited *Alleys & Doorways*, an anthology of homoerotic urban fantasy. She has committed fanfiction, screenwriting, and conrunning, but is much better now.

Jude Shabry (aka peacefrog) found Arisia in 1994 and hasn't been able to stay away since. Jude has attended as an artist, vendor, party host, techie, panelist, yoga teacher, climbing guide, wedding principle, mama, food truck wrangler, and more.

Daniela Sharma Life science buff with expertise in animal sciences, especially the interplay between hormones and behavior. Previous college instructor focusing on companion animal science and helping people pursue their goals related to working with animals.

David G. Shaw is, in no particular order: Aspie, Atheist, Blogger, Cook, Curmudgeon, Foodie, Geek, Musician, Parent, Partner, Reader, Scientist, Skeptic.

Nicholas "phi" Sheckman is President of Arisia, Inc.

Rachel Silber is always happy to talk about complex systems including safety of software-intensive sociotechnical systems (the day job) and convention management (a strange but rewarding hobby). Sometimes she notes down these ideas at <https://voluntarycomplexity.com>.

Ben Silver is a singer, musician, teaching artist, and poly and bi activist. As a performer, Ben's music slides through folk, R&B, funk, jazz, and more. Ben sings about personal and social issues, and has been immersed in the creation of live improvised music—finding that those same improvisational skills can be a vital asset in navigating the flow of loving relationships. Ben runs a monthly CircleSing in NYC and has been performing and teaching Vocal Improvisation and ensemble skills for over 25 years.

Jamila Sisco is an award-winning costumer with a specialization in anime, video game, and original costumes. She has worked on costumes for over 15 years, usually working on making the big and elaborate come to life. She is the former President of the Northern Lights chapter of the International Costumers' Guild.

Rebecca Slitt is the author of *Psy High* and *Psy High 2*, and an editor for Choice of Games, LLC, a company that pro-

duces text-based interactive fiction. Before that, she was a professor of medieval history. She's played tabletop RPGs for more than 25 years, LARPed for more than 20, and read mountains of SF and fantasy books. She's currently at work on *Dark College Years*, a Lovecraftian RPG about privilege and power at Yale.

Sarah Smith writes books. (Published in 14 languages, NY Times Notable, prizewinning, all that.) Her TITANIC book, *CRIMES & SURVIVORS, IS FINALLY COMING OUT APRIL 15*. There will be a party April 19—sign up at www.sarahsmith.com for invitations. She is working on a 19C Brazilian fantasy, with pirates and talking eagles. sarah-writer on FB and Twitter; she/her

Kris "Nchanter" Snyder Nchanter stumbled sideways into fandom in their early 20's for lack of anything else to keep them out of trouble. With a background in theater, the visual arts, and a love for SFF fostered by their father from a young age, it soon became obvious that this was where they, and their colorful curls, belonged. Nchanter now helps make fandom go by volunteering for several conventions including Worldcons and Arisia, and focuses on addressing harassment and creating more inclusive spaces within fandom.

Charity Southworth I am an art student turned astrophysicist! I currently work at the Charles Hayden Planetarium at the Museum of Science and just finished my Master's Degree science communication. I also run my own business where I make science themed jewelry, accessories and clothing! I love communicating science in a humorous, entertaining fashion—why should science seem dry and boring!?

Lisa J Steele is an attorney, writer, and game designer. As a lawyer, she has been involved in litigation, teaching, and legislation about issues of science and the criminal law. As a game-designer, she is a co-author of the ENnie award winning Bubblegumshoe, and has written for Steve Jackson Games, White Wolf, and Evil Hat. She has been attending Arisia since its inception.

Raven Stern is always up for adventures, whether that's around a game board or in a rural palace in Europe. Whatever the adventure, she'll be dressed for the occasion! You can find her dancing with the Commonwealth Vintage Dancers throughout the Boston area, and see her photos on her blog at plaidpetticoats.blogspot.com.

Kit Stubbs, Ph.D. Dr. Kit Stubbs is a non-binary/queer/femme maker & entrepreneur who's more interested in people than in tech. Kit is Founder and Executive Director of the Effing Foundation for Sex-Positivity (effing.org), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to foster sex-positive art & education. They blog about technological empowerment for sexuality & pleasure (toymakerproject.com) and co-organize teasecraft, a meetup group for sex/kink-positive crafters (teasecraft.com).



John Sundman is the author of the novels *Acts of the Apostles*, *Biodigital*, and *Mountain of Devils*, and of the novellas *Cheap Complex Devices* and *The Pains*. His newsletter “Technopothoeosis” concerns art, ethics, synthetic biology, literary criticism, and his glamorous life as unsung literary genius and underpaid construction laborer, among other things. The Technopothoeosis Youtube channel features long-form conversations with prominent scientists, novelists, philosophers and activists.

A. Szabla

Sonya Taaffe reads dead languages and tells living stories. Her short fiction and poetry have been collected most recently in *Forget the Sleepless Shores* (Lethe Press) and previously in *Singing Innocence and Experience*, *Postcards from the Province of Hyphens*, *A Mayse-Bikhl*, and *Ghost Signs*. She lives with her husband and two cats in Somerville, Massachusetts, where she writes about film for Patreon and remains proud of naming a Kuiper belt object.

Cecilia Tan is the multi-award winning author of *The Prince’s Boy*, *Telepaths Don’t Need Safewords*, and the *Magic University* series and the founder of Circler Press. Her award shelf includes the RT Reviewers Choice Award, the Maggie Award for Excellence, and induction into the Saints & Sinners LGBT Writers Hall of Fame. Her upcoming urban fantasy series from Tor Books will be known as *The Vanished Chronicles* and should appear Real Soon.

Kat Tanaka Okopnik KTO is currently working on *The Dictionary of Social Justice*, a gourmet marshmallow business, a novel, a dozen short stories, and raising two kids, while doing sensitivity reader work, every sort of editing but acquisitions, and occasionally blogging at ShadesBetween.com,

Ilene Tatroe has decided to get over her imposter syndrome and share her thoughts on the various things she enjoys (geeky and non) at Arisia. She loves *Supernatural* and *The Good Place* (and will cry when both are gone), enjoys reading a variety of things, and has become a bit more involved in local politics, as of late. She’s the parent of a teenager and, as of now, mostly writes up conference and webinar summaries for a living.

Gail Terman is a huge nerd who loves sports, coding, singing, and spending all of her vacation time helping to run conventions.

Matthew A.J. Timmins lives in Massachusetts with his wife and like most writers, has far too many cats. His debut novel, *The Miseries of Mr. Sparrows*, was published in November of 2015. His short stories have appeared in the magazines *Betwixt?*, *Stupefying Stories* and *Unlikely Story* as well as multiple anthologies. When not writing he enjoys roleplaying games, watching Formula 1 racing, and writing about himself in the third person.

Timothy J Tero has been attending Arisia cons for about

17 years now. He’s a painter and photographer, and has traveled extensively; he have been to Europe about a dozen times and Japan 3 times. He’s an assistant organizer for an international arthouse film meetup group in the Boston area. He would say his special interest would be the culture of Japan (old and new)—Japanese Sci-fi/horror films and some anime (especially old Anime). Also, he has a keen interest in European Sci-fi films.

Dan Toland is a writer and podcaster responsible for getting his fingerprints all over Arisia’s Media track this year. He lives in Boston with a woman of nearly limitless patience (Reader, she married him), a dog who tries REALLY HARD you guys, and also there is a cat. Hear him give voice to strongly-held opinions about inexpensively made British sci-fi, Reagan-era cartoons, and Bronze Age team-up comics at Earth-2.net, and endure his Twitter nonsense @UrbanSpaceman61.

Tom Traina is a former lawyer turned computer forensics consultant and legal technology specialist. Academically, he focuses on civil liberties, constitutional law, speculative bioethics, and comparative law and government in science fiction. Tom got into science fiction through *Star Wars*, then *Star Trek TNG*, and snowballed from there. He is also an avid roleplayer and theatre-style LARP writer. When he can afford it, he also enjoys wargames.

Shoshana Traum

Kevin Turausky I’m primarily a science fiction nerd but am gradually branching into fantasy. *Star Trek* is my favorite franchise, but am quite fond of *Stargate*, *Star Wars*, *Babylon 5*, or pretty much any show or film with cool spaceships. My professional background is much more down to earth: I used to be a park ranger and worked at sites across the US, teaching nature and history to visitors, and now I work in utilities.

Cadwell Turnbull is the author of the science fiction novel *The Lesson*. His short fiction has appeared in *The Verge*, *Light-speed*, *Nightmare*, and *Asimov’s Science Fiction*. His short story “Loneliness is in Your Blood” was selected for *The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy 2018*. His novelette “Other Worlds and This One” was also selected as notable story for the anthology. His short story “Jump” was selected for *The Year’s Best Science Fiction and Fantasy 2019*.

Heather Urbanski holds a Master of Arts in Writing and a Ph.D. in English. Her published works, *Plagues*, *Apocalypses*, and *Bug-Eyed Monsters: How Speculative Fiction Shows Us Our Nightmares*, the edited collection *Writing and the Digital Generation: Essays on New Media Rhetoric*, and *The Science Fiction Reboot*, all combine her fandom interests in science fiction and scholarly focus on rhetoric in pop culture. She is currently an Associate Professor of English Studies at Fitchburg State University.

Gabriel Valdez finds himself at the strange intersection of political organizing and media criticism, which were sup-

posed to be two completely different occupations before the sky fell in the last three years. He's worked as a campaign manager, investigative reporter, and garnered national honors for his work as a film critic. He doesn't always know which one he is on a given day, and he's not so sure it's a good thing to be in the reality where that somehow ends up working out.

Mercy Van Vlack has been a comics pro since 1980, including writing *Richie Rich*; artist on *Green Ghost & Lotus* (set in Boston) and *Miranda*; inker for DC, Malibu, and others; illustrator for numerous fanzines, APAs, anthropomorphics and SF cons; and artist of many Celtic Calendars and the *Celtic Coloring Book*. She also draws for private collections and makes Celtic jewelry. She sings political satire with the Raging Grannies and is a long-time fan of Dr. Demento and Tom Lehrer.

Drew Van Zandt is an engineer, maker, and general geek. Formerly on the Board of Directors of the Firefly Arts Collective, a group of a few thousand artists who make big and interactive art, Drew is happiest when he's teaching you to make something or making things himself.

Pablo Miguel Alberto Vazquez considers themselves many things, including performer, poet, fan, sometimes scholar/always student, agitator, bard-magus, and whatever else they come up with. They're a cinephile, DC Comics enthusiast, voracious reader, and avid gamer (tabletop/video). They traverse various subcultural communities, from magical lodges and mystic circles, unsanctioned parties and kink events, to Underground Rap and radical bookstores, to, of course, Science-Fiction and Fantasy fandom.

Julie Vinomano can usually be found procrastinating on her current sewing project with the latest sci-fi/fantasy series and fanfiction.

Mark "Justin du Coeur" Waks is a rapidly moving particle. If one pins down his position enough (and doesn't worry about his velocity), one finds him focusing on programming, SCA, fandom, LARP, and Freemasonry.

Emily Walton

Jessica Waters

Karl S Web Cosplay, Prop Builder, a Maker from before it was cool, and well rounded sci-fi geek. For a time ran the largest Farscape website, Karlsweb Farscape E-zine and currently runs a successful family friendly Haunted House in a 200 year old church, the First Parish Haunted House in Bedford, MA—check it out! A fan of *Trek*, *Farscape*, *Babylon 5*, *Space 1999*, *Firefly*, *Game of Thrones*, and now *The Expanse*! I am proud to say my wife and I have managed to raise three kids in fandom. I have attended Arisia since 1990.

Kate Wechsler

Brent Weichsel is a filmmaker, role-player, union ENBY, proud bisexual, and secret robot. They work in film and television in the camera department as a proud Local 600 camera person. Some projects he has worked on are; *Pose*, *Tales of the City*, *Person of Interest*, *Jessica Jones*, *Amazing Spider-man 2*, *Madam Secretary*, *Someone Great*, and *Irreplaceable You*. He is also a writer and director of short films, music videos and commercials. They/them Pronouns

Kat Weiler I sing! I dance! I read lots of books! Sometimes I do all three simultaneously (though that never ends well)! Come sing with me!

Susan Weiner has been writing and running LARPs for 15 years, primarily as part of Alleged Entertainment. She has also played music with Stranger Ways, Cheshire Moon, and her new band, Trinary. On the side, she teaches physiology, dates a bunch of people, studies social insect behavior, cooks weird, overly complicated meals, and does a variety of other things in not nearly enough time.

Morven Westfield first became fascinated by the unseen in her childhood, delighting in superstitions and ghost stories. Her interests are reflected in her writing. Her supernatural-themed short stories have appeared in multiple anthologies, and she regularly contributes articles on folklore and the supernatural to *The Witches Almanac*. Morven lives in Central Massachusetts with her husband. Like many writers, she keeps a messy office and drinks way too much coffee. www.morvenwestfield.com

Alan Wexelblat (he/him) is a poly parent of two trans teens, an amateur photographer, a long-time tabletop RPG and online MMO gamer, and a writer on intellectual property issues. He has been at every Arisia since #2 and worked most of them. This year he is Division Head of Team Arisia Services and is most likely to be found in the HQ or at the volunteer table. Ask him about helping with the convention!

Michelle Wexelblat Besides attending cons, being on panels, moderating panels, and working as staff, Michelle is a mother, wife, friend, extrovert, self-employed clinical social worker, and dabbler in many hobbies. Magic powers include working through many layers of red tape, sorting through insurance and other financial issues, and explaining complex things in simple ways. Many of these magic powers help in her profession of working with marginalized individuals and helping people heal from trauma.

H. M. White A writer, editor, and storyteller. Recently finished an MFA in Writing for Children at Simmons College. Writes for and works with The Wayfinder Experience (a trans- and queer-friendly LARP camp in New York's Hudson River Valley), edited the RPG *Sleepaway*, has written for Posthuman Studios, and is querying a middle grade space adventure as well as several illustrated books.

Nightwing Whitehead was born in 1958. The Barbie doll was "born" in 1959; so for a year she had nothing to do.



Since then, she's been making up for lost time by dressing anyone and anything that comes within her reach. She's worked for several theaters, dressed some stars, done some teaching, and has her own business designing and creating costumes for life.

Alison Wilgus is a writer, freelance editor, and cartoonist who's worked in comics for over a decade. Her most recent work is *Chronin*, a queer historical SF duology from Tor, and she's written two works of graphic non-fiction for First Second Books about human spaceflight and aviation history. In her spare time, she co-hosts a podcast about comics publishing called "Graphic Novel TK" with Gina Gagliano. She tweets as @AliWilgus and you can find many of her comics and stories at alisonwilgus.com

Penny Wilhelm

Scott Wilhelm is a licensed biology, physics, math, and general science teacher with more than 10 years of experience, mostly with high-school-aged learners with learning disabilities and severe behavioral problems. He combines deeply analytical lessons with fun activities to meet high expectations with no tears for a very wide range of ages and abilities.

Stephen R Wilk Although he now regrets buying Charles Augustus Ward a subscription to Ancestry.com, Stephen R. Wilk continues to be an Optical Engineer and an editor for the OSA. In his copious spare time he writes. His short story "George Washington and the Dragon" has finally(!) been published, and "Yamadori" is coming out in Analog. His YA Time Travel novel *The Traveler* has been published by Rogue Phoenix Press, and he has two nonfiction books coming out next year, *Backstage at Wonderland* and *Zap II*.

Connie Wilkins (also writing as Sacchi Green) has published scores of short stories and edited 18 anthologies, most in the lesbian erotica genre, two of them Lambda Literary Award winners. She especially loves to combine lesbian erotica and classical fantasy, as in her anthology *Witches, Princesses and Women at Arms*. Her recent collection, *Wild Rides*, also has its share of specific, from Old West vampires to ghosts to a shape-shifting dragon aiding pirates in the South China Sea.

W. B. J. Williams, the author of *The Garden at the Roof of the World*, and "The InfoCoup" holds advanced degrees in anthropology and archeology. He is an avid historian, mystic, poet, and author who manages an information security program at a prominent New England firm. He is noted for his bad puns, and willingness to argue from any perspective. He is endured by his beloved wife and two daughters, and lives in Sharon, Massachusetts.

Bey Woodward belongs to the geek, kink, and polyamorous communities. She is married to gaming book author, Jonathan L. Woodward, and runs a one-woman business, [Tasks@Bey Events](mailto:Tasks@BeyEvents.com). Check her out on Facebook or at www.tasksatbey.com. She gets your geek wedding!

Jonathan Woodward is the author or co-author of over a dozen role-playing game books, including the *Hellboy RPG*, *Trinity*, and *GURPS Banestorm*. He has been an Arisia panelist for over 20 years. He lives near Boston with his wonderfully complicated family.

DJ Xero (DarkMode), an operative of SeeDarkly™, has spun regularly throughout New England's pan-alt & goth/industrial dance club scene since 2006. She also writes a weekly blog about dark-alternative cover songs and their origins. For her mixes, playlists, blogs, and other upcoming events, find her online: <https://Xero.SeeDarkly.com>

Keith Yatsuhashi is the author of *Kojiki* and *Kokoro*, two Japanese/anime themed fantasy novels from Angry Robot Books. Keith is represented by Laura Zats, Headwater Literary Management. In his professional life, Keith is a consultant with the U.S. Department of Commerce and helps American companies sell products internationally.

Dr. Willie Yee is an amateur astronomer and magician. He is a Solar System Ambassador—a volunteer supporter of NASA supported by the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He is past President of the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association and presently serves on its board. He has received numerous awards for observing projects and for astronomical outreach and education.

Ellie Younger is interdisciplinary and intersectional whenever possible. Embrace the power of "and."

Guillermo Zeballos A child of the space race, Guillermo Zeballos has always been fascinated by fantastic vehicles and stories of space, real and fictional. He is active in designing and building spaceships out of paper and researching their designs. He is also a great fan of spaceship and futuristic art and illustration, as well as those of the more familiar hero ships of film and television. His professional background is in teaching, computer-human interaction, collaborative systems, and interface design.

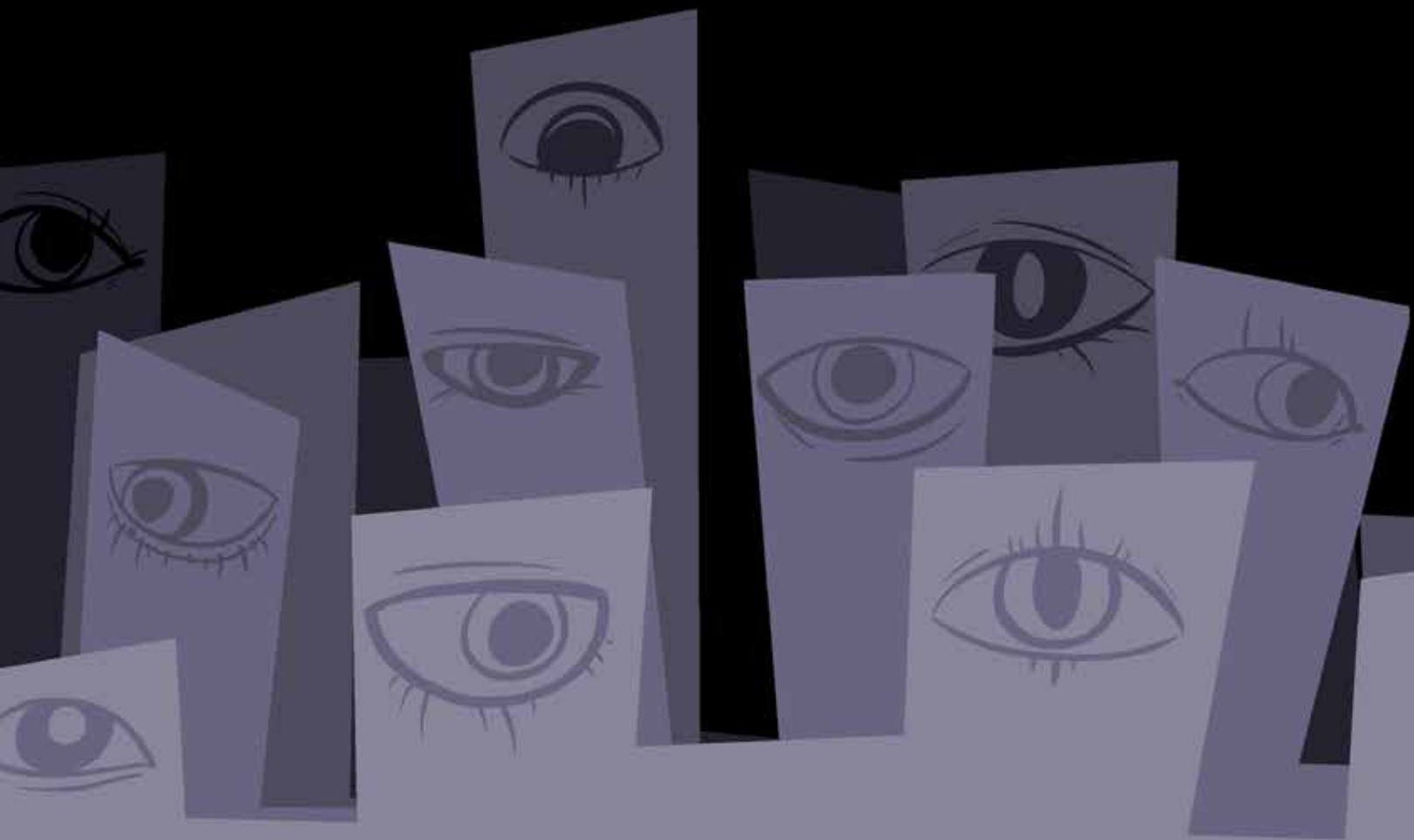
Eric "in the Elevator" Zuckerman was not a real talk show host, but he did play one on TV. He was Arisia 2008 Fan Performer Guest of Honor and Lunacon 2011 Special Guest. Not only is he still associated with his former fan-participation video comedy project, "Eric in the Elevator," but he also traveled back in time to host the 1943 Hugo Awards ceremony. He lives in Berkeley, California with his wife of over a quarter-century (Beth); and their two cats (Patience and Fortitude).

Arisia 2021



January 15-18, 2021

Westin Boston Waterfront



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