

# AFRISIA 2018

**V.E. SCHWAB**

Author Guest of Honor

**ASHE SAMUELS**

Artist Guest of Honor

**MIKKI KENDALL**

Fan Guest of Honor

**SHANNON WATTERS**

Comics Industry Guest of Honor

**JANUARY 12-15, 2018**

Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel





# ARISIA

**JANUARY 12-15, 2018**  
**WESTIN BOSTON WATERFRONT**

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**VE. SCHWAB**

Artist Guest of Honor  
**ASHE SAMUELS**  
*Color Art Portfolio, page 27*

Fan Guest of Honor  
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**SHANNON WATERS**

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# FROM THE CONVENTION CHAIR

¡Hola y bienvenidos! Welcome to Arisia 2018!

My name is Jaime Garmendia, and I am most excited to present to you our latest convention! There are so many things to see and do here that not even I know about all of them — and I am sure each of you will be entertained and made welcome. Arisia isn't just a great time, we are a year-long community of friends and volunteers. We foster a culture of inclusivity and consent. We stand proud as feminist and queer, polyamorous and Pagan, conservative and Christian, all under one roof.

## Our Guests of Honor

One of the pleasures of being convention chair is getting to appoint our Guests of Honor. I agonized over this! I'm happy to say that we have an awesome slate for Arisia 2018. This year, we are celebrating the works and achievements of several amazing women:

### Author Guest of Honor: Victoria "V.E." Schwab

Victoria is perhaps best known for her *Darker Shades of Magic* trilogy, but her oeuvre is deep and varied. She's written everything from dark fantasy to YA horror, from superhero fiction to Scholastic kid lit. Her sensibilities are wicked and macabre, yet uplifting. If the zombie apocalypse overruns South Boston, Victoria will not only help us all escape, she'll conquer the hordes through sheer wit, grit, and charisma.

### Artist Guest of Honor: Ashe Samuels

Ashe is an up-and-coming artist best known for her cover work on *Power and Magic: A Queer Witch Anthology*. Make sure to check out Ashe's amazing work in the Art Show, on the Arisia sales and volunteer t-shirts, and on our social media accounts. I especially like her Harpy series. I believe it's important to recognize not just established greats, but new talents whose work we will enjoy for years to come. Ashe is new to the fan convention scene, so I hope y'all give her 4500 reasons to come back!

### Fan Guest of Honor: Mikki Kendall

Mikki is on a mission to save fandom from itself. I asked Mikki to return to Arisia as Fan Guest this year on the strength of her work as past Chair of WisCon. She took the reins on the heels of a scandal that shook the heart of WisCon's identity as the premier feminist sci-fi fan convention, and I am confident in saying WisCon would not exist today without her leadership. We at Arisia have often looked toward our sisters at WisCon as role models, and I hope we can live up to their example in owning our mistakes and making no excuses. Mikki also writes professionally, in sci-fi, fantasy, non-fiction, and comics. And let's not forget her Twitter feed (@karnythia), which is worthy of recognition all by itself!

### Comics Guest of Honor: Shannon Watters

Before Arisia, my first fandom was the independent comics convention circuit, as a member of the arts collective known as the Boston Comics Roundtable. I first joined Arisia staff as the Comics Track Manager, and I am ecstatic to be able to bring comics to the center stage. In her role as Editor of her own imprint, Boom! Box, Shannon has curated an incredible lineup of works that are queer, feminist, and kid-friendly. She's employed many of the friends I made tabling at SPX, MoCCA, and other indie-friendly comics shows. If you haven't checked out her own fantastic co-creation, *Lumberjanes*, you are missing out!

## New Things!

As a community, Arisia is constantly changing and growing. Every year brings new initiatives and projects, and 2018 is no different. Here are some of the new highlights this year:

### Incident Response Team

Arisia takes our Code of Conduct seriously, but we also recognize that it must be a living document. Every year we try to incrementally improve on past practices, and that includes how we manage our community standards. Two years ago, several Arisians took our best practices and codified them into an Incident Response Team for MidAmericon II, the 2016 WorldCon. Arisia 2017 in turn adapted some lessons learned, and in 2018 we are formally adopting the structure and training we piloted for MAC2. IRT members are ready and able to take reports on Code of Conduct violations throughout the convention. You can still talk to any Watch member or Senior Staff (with a black ribbon) and we will make sure you are taken care of.

### Arisia Indie\*Expo

Please extend a welcome to our new exhibitors in the Arisia Indie\*Expo. Two years ago, we ran a one-day Indie Game Expo, and it was such a hit that we had to bring it back. And this year, it will be even bigger and better! On both Saturday and Sunday, you can swing by Grand Ballroom A to network with and shop from independent creators of all sorts. We have indie comics, indie makers and crafters, and yes, indie games. Everything you loved about the Arisia Artist Alley and Indie Game Expo — all under one roof!

### News Desk

This year we have organized our Communications Division a little differently to maximize at-con collection and dissemination of news. If you have a newsworthy event to report, email [newsdesk@arisia.org](mailto:newsdesk@arisia.org) and our News Desk staff will accept stories and photos to post on all our social media, the website, and the convention newsletter. Speaking of photos, our new team of Convention Photographers are excited to document the heck out of all the fun times. Our photography policies are the same as last year, included in the Code of Conduct.

### So Many Thanks!

Thank you to John Merrow for introducing me to Arisia, and to Shira Lipkin for hiring me in my first staff role. Thank you to Rachel Silber for taking a chance on promoting a relatively new and untested staffer into senior leadership. And thanks above all to my partners in crime Kris Pelletier and Kris "Nchanter" Snyder for helping us all survive this experience!

And muchisimas gracias to each and every attendee! Thank you for your well-spent dollars. Thank you for your countless hours of volunteering. Thank you for caring so damn much about this convention. Without each of you, there would be no Arisia now or in the future. I hope you find your community here, and hope we can welcome you back for years to come!

Saludos,

Jaime Garmendia, Convention Chair, Arisia 2018

The World is Coming Back to the Bay!

# WORLD CON76 SAN JOSE 2018

## GUESTS of HONOR

CHELSEA  
QUINN YARBRO



PIERRE & SANDY  
PETTINGER



SPIDER  
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BOB  
WILKINS  
(GHOST of HONOR)



EDGAR  
PANGBORN  
(GHOST of HONOR)



JOHN  
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FRANK  
HAYES



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The McEnery Convention Center  
San Jose - California - August 16-20, 2018

[www.WORLDCON76.org](http://www.WORLDCON76.org)



# FROM THE ARISIA PRESIDENT

Welcome to Arisia. As you may have seen on our web site, we are New England's largest and most diverse science fiction and fantasy convention, and that is only possible because of all of the wonderful program, event, and other participants, our tireless volunteers, and of course all of the dedicated fans that attend each year.

If I didn't already know how amazing the people who attend this convention are, I was reminded of it over the last few weeks when we found out that our hotel was going to be doing renovations, taking a large number of rooms off-line. We put out a call for folks to volunteer to move to our overflow hotel, and in a matter of a few short days enough people stepped up that, as I write this, it looks like we won't have to move anyone else. This incredible willingness to step forward surprised some on our staff, but not me. I've had the pleasure of being involved in Arisia almost from its inception, and I've seen how this wonderful thing we call Arisia happens year after year run entirely by volunteers.

I mention diversity because we consider it vital to what Arisia is today, and we always work to embrace it. We strive to be a welcoming place to fans of all ages, genders, racial backgrounds, sexual orientations, and gender identities. We seek to bring people together around being fans of speculative fiction in the broadest sense. Whether your interests lie in books, media, games, art, costuming, or something else entirely, we work to make space for you here.

Along those lines, I'd like to call attention to something new

this year: the Safer Space for Arisians of Color. This permanent space for Arisians of color grew out of our POC meetups, and I'm pleased we're making this space available. Much like the Quiet

Room we have had for several years, this will be a place for Arisians of color to go when feeling overwhelmed by the convention or when looking to network with other Arisians of color.

Arisia is a continually-evolving event, and we love to hear what our members have to say. If you see something you liked this year, or something that you feel could be improved, please let us know by using our online form at [www.arisia.org/Feedback](http://www.arisia.org/Feedback), by filling out one of our feedback forms available at the Info Desk, or by coming to one of the feedback sessions listed in the Pocket Program.

Lastly, for those who don't know, this convention is run by a nonprofit organization, Arisia Inc. The corporation makes decisions about important things such as the convention budget and also administers a grant fund to channel

surplus funds back into the broader world of fandom. If you are wondering how to get involved in Arisia beyond just the convention, I encourage you to say hello. This year, I'll be working in Operations, mostly in the Stone Room. You can also attend the January Arisia Corporate Meeting on Sunday at 1:00 pm. Check out the Pocket Program or the schedule app for the location or check us out online at [corp.arisia.org](http://corp.arisia.org).

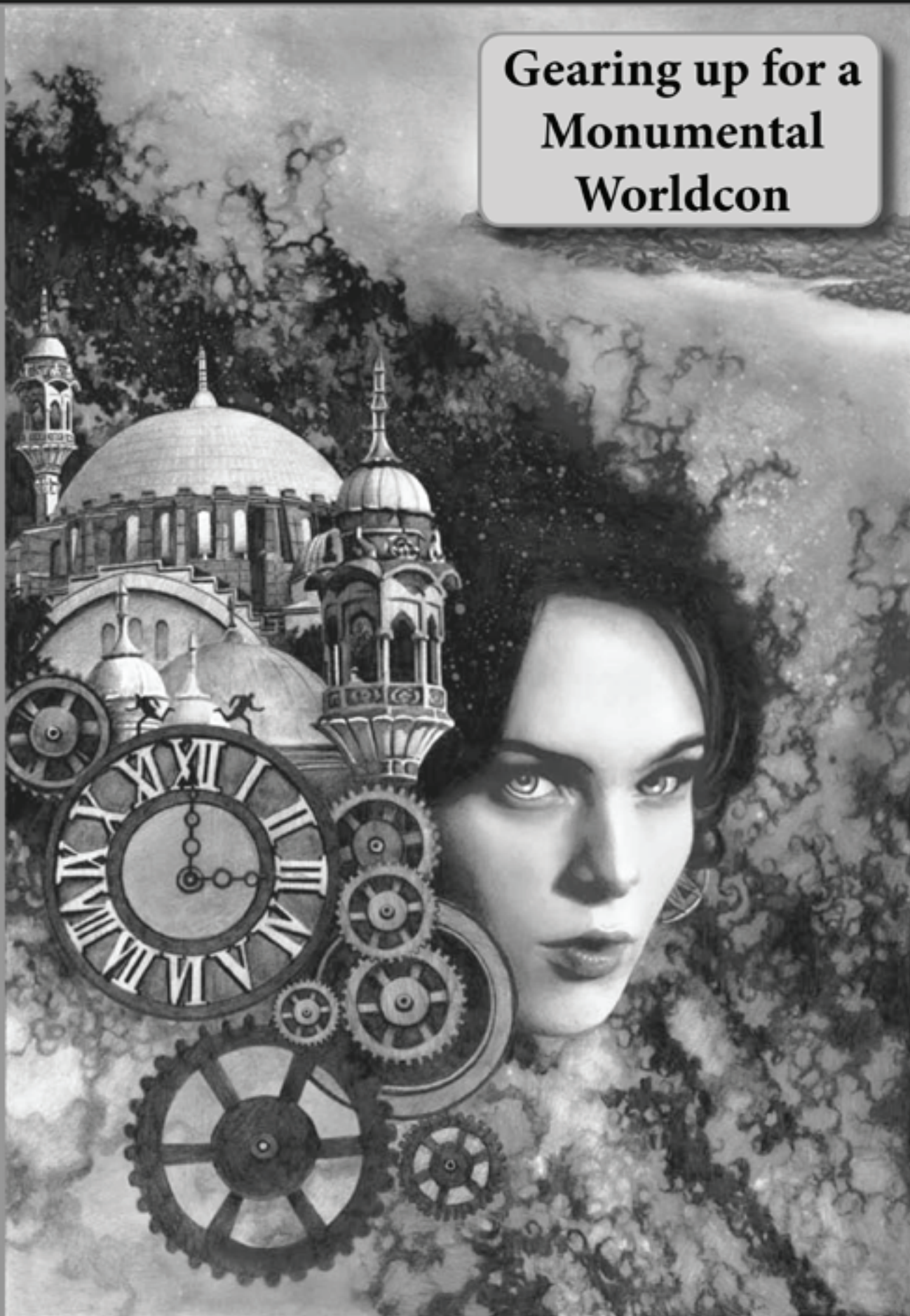
In the meantime, enjoy the con!

*Noel Rosenberg, R.R.A.B, President, Arisia, Inc.*



# DC in 2021 Worldcon Bid

**Gearing up for a  
Monumental  
Worldcon**



DCin2021.org • [info@dcin2021.org](mailto:info@dcin2021.org)  
Facebook/Twitter: DC in 2021



# 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 "The Watch" (Convention Security), 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 welcome their appropriate participation.

All children aged 8 and under must be with an adult, in Turtle Track (Childcare), 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 Massachusetts 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.

## Photography Policy

In this section, “recording” is defined as any recorded media (including but not limited to: still photographs, audio recordings, and film/video recordings in both analogue and digital formats), or the production of any such media.

This is a private event; by registering, individuals grant Arisia and designated photographers a non-exclusive right to photograph, videotape, otherwise record, and publish (in print or electronically) themselves, companions, activities, costumes, artwork, sales goods, and other property used or displayed in their normal participation of the convention. Flash photography is permitted at Arisia except for areas or events where it is specifically banned (e.g. in performances).

Anyone using recording equipment must ask permission before recording any individual or group. Anyone who does not wish to be recorded should state their wishes unambiguously.

We presume that you are acting in an amateur capacity unless otherwise stated. If you are acting on behalf of a publication, video production organization, or news medium (freelance or employed) of any kind, you must register as a member of the press (commercial publication, media, fanzine). Press passes may be obtained by going to the information desk and ask to speak with the press liaison to receive an orientation and press kit. Articles or media coverage released after the convention may earn you a membership to the next Arisia, or a refund for this year.

Attendees agree to be bound by the Convention policies on making recordings. These policies are available on the Convention website and in Arisia Operations and given to anyone who registers with the Convention as a member of the Press or as a Photographer. Do not manipulate recordings in ways that are malicious or misleading. Some areas, events, and/or program items may further restrict recordings.

Arisia’s Code of Conduct requires respect for other attendees, including obtaining permission to make recordings, not using recordings for malicious purposes, and following the applicable laws and regulations established by the hosting facility.

## 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.

# CONVENTION COMMITTEE AND STAFF

## **CON CHAIR: Jaime Garmendia**

### **DEPUTY CON CHAIR:**

Kris Pelletier: Liaison to Student Art & Student Writing Contests

### **ASSISTANT CON CHAIRS:**

Dale Meyer-Curley: Hotel, Events, Gaming, Programming, and Documentation

Diana Hsu: Member Services, Registration, Staff Services, Youth Services, and Diversity

Daniel Eareckson: Exhibits, Food, Operations, Tech, and Special Projects

**CON CHAIR ADVISORS:** Anna Bradley, Nicholas “Phi” Shectman

**CON CHAIR SPECIAL PROJECTS:** Daniel Eareckson

**SCAVENGER HUNT CZAR:** Cate Schneiderman

**EXPO AREA HEAD:** Daniel Eareckson

**EXPO STAFF:** Anna Bradley, Chris Buck, Dan Callahan, Charles E. Leiserson Jr.

**CONVENTION TREASURER:** Ellie Younger

**SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO CONVENTION**

**TREASURER:** Tom Traina

**CASH OFFICE HEAD:** Kathleen Morrison

**GUEST OF HONOR LIAISON:** Kathryn Kun

**ASSISTANT GUEST OF HONOR LIAISON:** Buzz Harris

**LIAISONS TO FAN GUEST OF HONOR:** Emily Wagner, Siobhan Krzywicki

**PRE-CON STAFF:** Michelle/Pygment

**DIVERSITY CO-CHAIRS:** Diana Hsu, Rashawn Seams

**DIVERSITY COMMITTEE:** Anna Bradley, Jaime Garmendia, Aaron Heuckroth, Donna Martinez, Cody Mattes, James Meickle, Mark Oshiro, Summer Plum, Mink Rose, Rachel Silber, Kris “Nchanter” Snyder

**DOCUMENTATION TEAM CHAIR:** Taylor Hartwin

**DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE:** Cody Mattes, Dale Meyer-Curley

**APPLICATION IT TEAM LEAD:** Peter Olszowka

**ZAMBIA SYSADMIN:** Dan Franklin

**CONVENTION MASTER SYSADMIN:** Matt Barr

**STAFF:** Benjamin Levy

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**ASSISTANT DIVISION HEAD, PUBLICATIONS:**

Alan Wexelblat

**ASSISTANT DIVISION HEAD, MEDIA:** Gregorian Hawke

**WEBSITE LEAD:** Catya Belfer

**WEBSITE EDITORS:** Leslie Pocklington, Alan Wexelblat

**WEBSITE PROGRAMMERS:** Benjamin Levy, Catya Belfer, Peter Olszowka

**WEBSITE DESIGNERS:** Leslie Pocklington, Alan Wexelblat

**AD SALES:** Rick Katze

**PRINT PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR:** Kate Wechsler

**SOUVENIR BOOK DESIGN/LAYOUT:** Allison Holt

**SOUVENIR BOOK CONTENT:** Catt Kingsgrave

**RESTAURANT GUIDE:** Kate Wechsler, Jess Steytler, LiAm Wexelblat

**POCKET PROGRAM:** Leslie Pocklington

**FAMILY FRIENDLY GUIDE:** Beth Kevles

**ARTIST AND GRAPHIC DESIGN:** Allison Holt

**COPY EDITORS:** Alan Wexelblat, Kate Wechsler, Allison Holt, Kris Pelletier, Holly Nelson

**KONOPAS:** Mary Olszowka, Peter Olszowka

**SOCIAL MEDIA LEAD:** Gabriel Lefton

**NEWS DESK LEAD:** Marc Ebuña

**BLOG EDITOR:** Alan Wexelblat

**PROGRESS REPORTS:** Alan Wexelblat

**PHOTOGRAPHY COORDINATOR:** Cat Trzaskowski

**PHOTOS STAFF:** Cassia Hawke

**PRESS LIAISON:** Justin du Coeur

**DEPUTY PRESS LIAISON:** Leah Schenkel

## **EVENTS: Persis Thorndike**

**ASSISTANT DIVISION HEADS:** Sharon Sbarsky, Beth Kevles

**EVENTS LIAISONS:** Cate Clifford, Harriet Severino, Lynn E. Cohen Koehler, Bria Leigh Yazic

**WANDERING MINSTRELS:** Jeff Keller

**ASSISTANT MINSTREL WRANGLER:** Joshua Kronengold

**AT-CON MINSTREL WRANGLER:** Susan Weiner

**WEAPONS DEMONSTRATIONS LIAISON:** Steven Hirsch

**YOGA CLASS MANAGER:** Eric Bornstein

### **MASQUERADE**

**MASQUERADE DIRECTOR:** James Hinsey

**ASSISTANT MASQUERADE DIRECTOR:** Kat Amitrano

**STAFF:** Debi Chowdhury, Jen Grover, Susan Isaacs, Roberta Moore

**MASQUERADE TABLE:** Kat Amitrano

**MC:** Chris Doherty

**STAGE MANAGER:** Kaede Morales

**PRESENTATION JUDGES:** Gaia Eirich, Richard Hill, Jamila Sisco

**WORKMANSHIP JUDGES:** Christine Evans, Lily Fehler

**JUDGES' CLERKS:** Jen Grover, Susan Isaacs, Roberta Moore

**GREEN ROOM MANAGER:** Dr. Karen, Carol Salemi

**REPAIR TABLE MANAGER:** Debi Chowdhury

**HEAD NINJA:** Ann Catelli

**BACKSTAGE PIRATE:** Greykell Dutton



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER:** Derek Kouyoumjian  
**MASQUERADE COMPUTER GURU:** James Hinsey

**EXHIBITS: David “DDA” D’Antonio**

**ASSISTANT DIVISION HEADS:** Benjamin Levy, Jill Eastlake

**FIXED INSTALLATIONS**

**ART SHOW:** Megan Lewis, Nicholas “phi” Shectman  
**ASSISTANT ART SHOW DIRECTOR:** Julia Austein  
**AUTOMATION:** Jo Hogan  
**BAG CHECK:** Richard L. Schmeidler  
**CATALOG:** Rachel Mello  
**CATALOG AD SALES:** Buzz Harris  
**CHECKIN/CHECKOUT:** Sabrian Hewitt, Rick Katze, Eyal Sagi, Michael Sharrow  
**CHECKIN/CHECKOUT CHIEF:** Carol London  
**MAIL-IN/MAIL-OUT:** D. Cameron Calkins, Mary Jo Kahler Calkins, Kit Carlson  
**MAIL-IN LOGISTICS:** Sandy “Pink” Sutherland  
**SALES:** Deborah L. Coombs, Paul Selkirk  
**SALES CHIEF:** Andrea Senchy  
**SETUP/TEARDOWN:** D. Cameron Calkins, Derek Fox, Liana Hertel, Ken London, William Mui, Mary Perez, Foxy Squire  
**SETUP CHIEF:** Rex Powell  
**LIGHTING CHIEFS:** Ellen Blackburn, Lenny Foner  
**TACTILE TOUR:** Tegan Kehoe  
**TRAINING:** Michael Sharrow  
**GENERAL ART SHOW STAFF AND RUNTIME**  
**CREW:** Joni Dashoff, Elliott Mitchell, Laurel Richman, Harvey Rubinovitz  
**DEALERS’ LIAISON:** Ed Trachtenberg  
**ASSISTANT DEALER LIAISON:** Sabina Fecteau  
**FAN TABLES:** Aurora Celeste  
**TAX ID CZAR:** Mieke Citroen  
**GALLERIA MANAGER:** Skip Morris  
**PROJECTED MEDIA**  
**ANIME:** Mike Toole  
**VIDEO COORDINATOR:** Michael Kerpan

**FOOD: Miri Brodie-Grossman, Tamar Amidon**

**CON SUITE CO-AREA HEADS:** Nicholas Lassiter, Danielle  
**DEAD DOG:** Laurel Richman Unger  
**GREEN ROOM:** Catelynn  
**GREEN ROOM ASSISTANT:** Elizabeth Crefin  
**GREEN ROOM STAFF:** Mary Elizabeth Bahl, Gabby Morel  
**QUARTERMASTER:** Austin Noto-Moniz  
**STAFF DEN HEAD:** Paul Grossman  
**STAFF DEN SHIFT LEAD:** Sue Cochran  
**STAFF DEN STAFF:** Hannah Cohen, Nesya Cohen, Yitz Cohen, Swati Joshi

**GAMING: Kevin “Yellow Tie Guy” Schendell**

**TABLETOP GAMING AREA HEAD:** Daniel R. Abraham  
**TABLETOP GAMING ASSISTANT AREA HEAD:** Arnis Kletnieks  
**LARPS AREA HEAD:** Alison Love

**VIDEO GAMES AREA HEAD:** Janet Stickle

**HOTEL LIAISON: Emily Coombs**

**ASSISTANT DIVISION HEADS:** Debby Sommer, Andy Rosequist  
**OVERFLOW HOTEL CONTACT:** Kris Snyder  
**AT-CON LIAISONS:** Julia Kedge, Amos Meeks, Matt Ringel  
**BEO WRITER:** Paul Kraus  
**CO-ASSISTANT BEO WRITERS:** Kim Sward, Todd Cooper  
**F&B WRANGLER:** Lia  
**BEO DATA ENTRY & PROOFREADER:** Lenore Jean Jones  
**INNKEEPER**  
**PRE-CON INNKEEPER:** Holly Nelson  
**AT-CON INNKEEPER STAFF MANAGER:** Meg Frank  
**AT-CON INNKEEPERS:** Kendra Albert, Ben “Books” Schwartz, Meg Frank  
**PARTY CZAR:** Joel Herda  
**ASSISTANT PARTY CZAR:** Andy Rosequist

**MEMBER SERVICES: Tanya Washburn**

**ASSISTANT DIVISION HEAD:** Elena Canadas  
**ACCESS TEAM HEAD:** Cody Mattes  
**ASSISTANT ACCESS HEAD:** Josh Burson  
**ACCESS: TACTILE TOUR:** Tegan Kehoe  
**BLOOD DRIVE:** John Hodges  
**BONE MARROW DRIVE:** Paul Kominers  
**COAT CHECK:** April Kingston, Greykell Dutton, Giuliani Montanari  
**COAT CHECK STAFF:** Maya Gournard, Barbara Jewell, Leah Schenkel, LiAm Wexelblat  
**FOOD TRUCKS LIAISON:** Jude Shabry  
**INFO DESK:** Kris Page  
**INFO DESK STAFF:** Jean Rossner, Diane Rosenberg, Fred Isaacs, Lia  
**LINE MANAGEMENT:** DeAnna Sumner  
**PHOTO BOOTH:** Jane Winans  
**PHOTO BOOTH STAFF:** Catherine Wechsler, Stephen Karpf, Jordan Allen, Jennifer Cooney, Wolf  
**COSPLAY REPAIR STATION:** Mieke Citroen  
**COSPLAY REPAIR STATION STAFF:** Kathryn Lieber, Shelly Maple, Krista Rose, Missy Schuman, Jess Steytler  
**QUIET ROOM:** Pat Vandenberg, Bill Thomasson, Clare Jones  
**PROMOTIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS:** Misty Pendragon  
**PRONOUN RIBBONS:** Sy Salinas  
**TIPTREE BAKE SALE:** Kate Nepveu  
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## STUDENT WRITING CONTEST FINALISTS

"Remember"  
by Lily Andrulat

"Cloud 9"  
by Julia Dickman

"Define Berkeley: Prologue" by Brynn McQuaid

"The Pentagonam"  
by Rina Peromsik

"The Arena"  
by Alexis Romero

The Arisia Student Writing Contest Committee congratulates the writing contest finalists for Arisia 2018. High school students from around the New England region submitted works of fiction in the sci-fi or fantasy genre between 1000-3000 words. Winners receive cash prizes and free memberships to Arisia 2018. The first-place winner's school also receives a matching prize.

Placement will be announced and finalists will receive their awards during the Arisia Masquerade, Sunday night at 8pm.

Many thanks to our Finalist Judges: Mikki Kendall, Sioban Krzywicki, Victoria Schwab, and Trisha Wooldridge.

And to the Arisia 2018 Committee Members: Kris Pelletier, Chair of Student Contests; Terry Holt, Chair of Student Writing Contest; Anna Bradley, Jaelen Hartwin, Rev. Johnny Healey, Allison Holt, Fred Isaacs, Skip Morris, Dr. Abby Noyce, David Silber, Mike Sprague, Carolyn VanEseltine, and Conor Walsh.

All finalists' stories can be viewed after the convention on Arisia's corporate site at [corp.arisia.org/SWC-Winners](http://corp.arisia.org/SWC-Winners).

For more information on Arisia's student writing contest, please email [writingcontest@arisia.org](mailto:writingcontest@arisia.org).



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Author Guest of Honor

# V. E. SCHWAB



Photo courtesy Jenna Maurice.

“It starts with a crack, a sputter, and a spark.”

Those were the first words from **Victoria Schwab** that I’d read — the first I’d heard, in fact, though that seems so surprising to me now, since it was only just five years ago.

Do nearby molecular clouds notice when their neighbors change, when some pockets collapse together, becoming something incandescent, even holy, in their fusion? Are galaxies tuned to hear dissonance, to find joy or loss or wonder in the intensity of new forms?

I confess here that I’ve only (perhaps obviously) been a student of the “soft” sciences, prone to doing things like assigning resonance to gases and atoms and nebulae-in-waiting — but if you’ll allow one last meander: it fascinates me that something as singular, as awesome and dazzling, as a star, is borne of a tiny chain of moments.

And that, too, is why I care about books, about stories. The order matters, the components matter, the luck and the timing and the fusion of everything and nothing, this all matters.

Victoria Schwab is the kind of writer that strikes one like a star — you read her book, and you are dazzled. Brilliance in storytelling, like sunspots left when you close your eyes after coming into the bright day.

And only if you are the sort to find joy in hard work, in perfected craft, will you look deeper to notice how this sort of thing happened, why the multiplicity of elements and timing are behind Schwab’s seemingly quick ascendance as a novelist.

I saw V speak sometime after I’d read her first YA novel, the one I’d quoted above, and I was delighted to find that in person, she’s as charming and determined (and likely as dangerous) as any one of her sharp and beloved



characters. This would serve us well, as we jokingly referred then to our plans of glory, but truly — I can't ever decide if the thing I value most about V as a writer is her shadowed depth of fascinating creative intention or her commitment and work ethic. Though perhaps it's that other thing we share — the drive to be better-than. It isn't that V strives to be "better" than another writer, but that she always is fiercely trying to be better than her experiences. She works to stretch in her own writing, to drive her books harder and compete with her own past selves in their workings. But Victoria Schwab wants the world to be better, or at the very least more nuanced — but mostly more magical, and she tries actively to match up her higher ideal with the realities of the mundane. She builds doors to wonder, escapes for those who need it, inspires those who are still searching for magic, too, on the page.



one of the things that makes her so interesting. First, they are just fun to read — tell me you don't want to read about magical coats and missing pieces and worlds apart and cheating death. But then her characters say silent things, if you are inclined to listen. They make you examine the parts you like least about yourself — your ruthlessness, your dependence, your envy, your

fears — and engage with the contradictions of choice and action. And for all the darkness this implies — the struggles are worthwhile, and consequential, and the outcomes feel earned, if not always happy. But Schwab does her best to build in at least a crack into each of her endings, a doorway to another potential, giving her books a true-

to-life feel, because the only constant is change, after all. And, if you are truly lucky, you will meet someone along the way who inspires you, each and every day, and Victoria Schwab is such a person — and I am deeply lucky to call her an author and a friend.

Her body of work can be read on two levels, which is

- Miriam Weinberg

## Excerpt from V.E. Schwab's *Vicious*

VICTOR readjusted the shovels on his shoulder and stepped gingerly over an old, half-sunken grave. His trench billowed faintly, brushing the tops of tombstones as he made his way through Merit Cemetery, humming as he went. The sound carried like wind through the dark. It made Sydney shiver in her too big coat and her rainbow leggings and her winter boots as she trudged along behind him. The two looked like ghosts as they wove through the graveyard, both blond and fair enough to pass for siblings, or perhaps father and daughter. They were neither, but the resemblance certainly came in handy since Victor couldn't very well tell people he'd picked up the girl on the side of a rain-soaked road a few days before. He'd just broken out of jail. She'd just been shot. A crossing of fates, or so it seemed. In fact, Sydney was the only reason Victor was beginning to believe in fate at all.

He stopped humming, rested his shoe lightly on a tombstone, and scanned the dark. Not with his eyes so much as with his skin, or rather with the thing that crept beneath it, tangled in his pulse.

He might have stopped humming, but the sensation never did, keeping on with a faint electrical buzz that only he could hear and feel and read. A buzz that told

him when someone was near.

Sydney watched him frown slightly. "Are we alone?" she asked.

Victor blinked, and the frown was gone, replaced by the even calm he always wore. His shoe slid from the gravestone. "Just us and the dead."

They made their way into the heart of the cemetery, the shovels tapping softly on Victor's shoulder as they went. Sydney kicked a loose rock that had broken off from one of the older graves. She could see that there were letters, parts of words, etched into one side. She wanted to know what they said, but the rock had already tumbled into the weeds, and Victor was still moving briskly between the graves. She ran to catch up, nearly tripping several times over the frozen ground before she reached him. He'd come to a stop, and was staring down at a grave. It was fresh, the earth turned over and a temporary marker driven into the soil until a stone one could be cut.

Sydney made a noise, a small groan of discomfort that had nothing to do with the biting cold. Victor glanced back and offered her the edge of a smile.

"Buck up, Syd," he said casually. "It'll be fun."

Truth be told, Victor didn't care for graveyards, either. He didn't like dead people, mostly because he had no effect on them. Sydney, conversely, didn't like dead people because she had such a marked effect on them. She kept her arms crossed tightly over her chest, one gloved thumb rubbing the spot on her upper arm where she'd been shot. It was becoming a tic.

Victor turned and sunk one of the spades into the earth. He then tossed the other one to Sydney, who unfolded her arms just in time to catch it. The shovel was almost as tall as she was. A few days shy of her thirteenth birthday, and even for twelve and eleven twelfths, Sydney Clarke was small. She had always been on the short side, but it certainly didn't help that she had barely grown an inch since the day she'd died.

Now she hefted the shovel, grimacing at the weight. "You've got to be kidding me," she said.

"The faster we dig, the faster we get to go home."

Home wasn't home so much as a hotel room stocked only with Sydney's stolen clothes, Mitch's chocolate milk, and Victor's files, but that wasn't the point. At this

moment, home would have been any place that wasn't Merit Cemetery. Sydney eyed the grave, tightening her fingers on the wooden grip. Victor had already begun to dig.

"What if...," she said, swallowing, "... what if the other people accidentally wake up?"

"They won't," cooed Victor. "Just focus on this grave. Besides..." He looked up from his work. "Since when are you afraid of bodies?"

"I'm not," she snapped back, too fast and with all the force of someone used to being the younger sibling. Which she was. Just not Victor's.

"Look at it this way," he teased, dumping a pile of dirt onto the grass. "If you do wake them up, they can't go anywhere. Now dig."

Sydney leaned forward, her short blond hair falling into her eyes, and began to dig. The two worked in the dark, only Victor's occasional humming and the thud of the shovels filling the air.

Thud. Thud. Thud.





## Artist Guest of Honor

# ASHE SAMUELS

I first met **Ashe Samuels** on a semi-secret forum for gamers and game-makers of color. My own interest in games begins and ends with a few visual novels (plus a theoretical interest in making them myself one day), so while gaming was how we met, it definitely wasn't why I remembered her well past the life of the forum. It mattered way more that we were both mixed-race artists living in the Pacific Northwest, and that her paintings took "Black Girl Magic" to a whole new level.

While my visual novel career remains theoretical, my career as a publisher of creator-owned comics recently became very real. Power & Magic Press' goal is to empower creators of color, LGBTQ+ creators, and everyone at the intersections. Our debut book showcases the talents of women, demigirls, and bigender creators of color working in the fantasy genre, and every story within represents their diversity and power. The cover art for such a collection had to be, for lack of a better word, spellbinding.

It doesn't matter how many times you tell someone not to judge a book by its cover — for better or worse, it's what we do. The perfect cover is both alluring and true to the spirit of the work. It draws you in and keeps you in. Even as our internet haunts diverged, Ashe's work had kept a part of me in.

Working primarily in the medium of digital painting, she focuses strongly on the figure, especially Black figures who are presented as more than human. I think that's an important distinction ("more than" human as opposed to "not quite" or "less than" human), as she blends the human form with scales, feathers, fur, and talons in a manner that exalts her characters. Like the sphynx, most of them don a human face, and their expressions make you feel as if the character is calmly

watching you as you watch it. There is a power dynamic between us and these works as one glimpses into a world and onto beings who exist above and beyond us. Sometimes a simple human character is portrayed as well, always in the role of observer, back turned to the viewer. Portrayed or not, the observer is almost always presented with a striking image composed of complementary colors and golden light. The few images in Ashe's portfolio that feature more "subdued" analogous or monochromatic palettes still burn with reds and golds. Her prismatic vision of another world far more beautiful than our own — where dragons breathe flowers and little brown girls discover the unknown — embodied "power" and "magic."

Ashe's cover for *POWER & MAGIC: The Queer Witch Comics Anthology* is a revolutionary image: three witches of color pouring forth a golden brew, their faces peaceful, assured, and their hair dominating the space around them. Like her three witches, Ashe poured everything she had into this piece, and it shows. It not only shows in the quality of the work, but in

its continuing effect on everyone who lays eyes on it.

At conventions, I get to bear witness. People stop to look at the stack of books quietly, timidly asking if they are allowed to touch them, feeling a need to explain: "I was walking by, but then I saw the cover... I had to turn around."

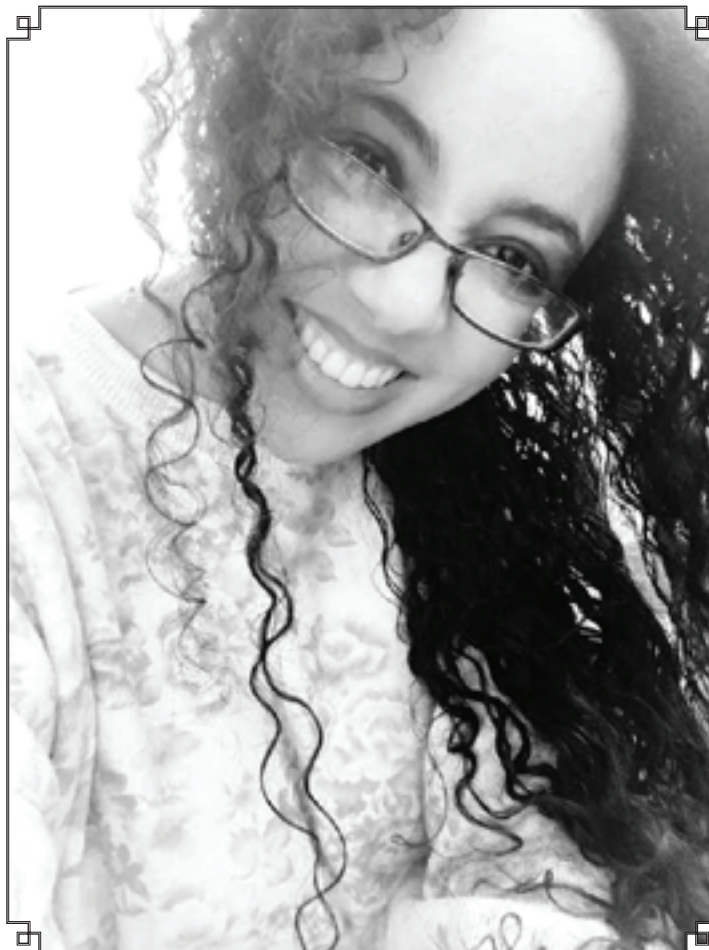
"Who drew this?"

"This is the most beautiful cover I've ever seen."

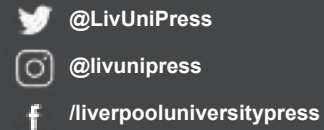
"...I need it."

Ashe has said that one of her goals as an artist is to create work that will be remembered. I for one will always remember.

— Joamette Gil



# Science Fiction Journals at Liverpool University Press



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## Fan Guest of Honor

# MIKKI KENDALL

Fandom, as hard as it tries, isn't always as accepting as it should be. In theory, a community of people who have an interest in sci-fi or fantasy would be understanding of marginalized groups, but communities are filled with people and people are flawed. Yes despite this, there are always those within the community who are willing to do the work needed to make it better, be it by bureaucracy or brute force. Mikki Kendall is one who is willing to do both.

"How did you like WisCon?"

It's a simple enough question, that if most people had asked me would have gotten a canned answer. "It was fun," followed by a slightly too tight smile. However it wasn't just anyone who'd asked me this question, it was Mikki, who could see through a canned response a mile away. This was after my first WisCon back in 2011. Mikki as well as a few other friends had encouraged me to go, despite my swearing off cons after several bad experiences. She had warned me that it wouldn't be perfect, but it would be an improvement on cons I'd previously been to.

"It was a lot," I'd started as a group of my friends and I debriefed our experience. It was fun when we were with one another, but there were more than a few occasions of microaggressions, rude comments and unwanted hair touching. I didn't realize it at the time but Mikki was on the WisCon ConCom for the upcoming year, and had already had the gears turning in her head on how to improve things. She listened to our complaints, and after giving us information about things like the POC and LGBT Safe Spaces, as well as the POC dinner, she got to work. She only had one request from us: "Come back next year."

Over the next few years, up to her becoming a co-chair of WisCon, Mikki made an effort to make WisCon an even more accepting space both behind the scenes and with attendees individually. Every year she encouraged us to come back, and every year she would introduce us to more and more people she knew we shared interests with. She encouraged us to volunteer, to throw parties, to talk with people we hadn't had the chance to speak



From left to right: Patrick, Xavier, Malcolm and Mikki Kendall.

with a year because this person loves fanfic, and that person listens to that podcast, and oh you like comics? Well so-and-so writes them, you should talk to them about their most recent work. I was naive and didn't see it at the time, but Mikki was building a community within WisCon, one that both gave back to the con in volunteer work but would also look out for each other when the inevitable microaggression arrived.

The year she was co-chair of WisCon was also the year I learned about her previous experiences at WisCon. She and a few other people talked about their experiences at the con being hostile back when they first started going. They'd gone for the same reason a lot of folks had, they were fans who also wanted to be writers, and thought a feminist writing convention would be the perfect place for them to start careers and meet others with the same interests. Instead it had been a difficult and painful. She'd decided then that instead of washing her hands of the whole thing she was going to fight back, in hopes that she could help build a space that welcomed marginalized fans.

As the years have gone by, Mikki hasn't been able to give as much time as she previously could to the ConCom, but still contributes as much as she can. She continues to make sure people connect with one another and makes sure they feel welcome. And she never forgets to ask them to "come back next year."

- De Ana Jones

## From Mikki Kendall's Archives

*Originally posted by Mikki Kendall on LiveJournal, 02 July 2007.*

I'm noticing a lot of people insisting that the portrayal of Martha as strong and capable automatically negates any accusation of sexism in the latest season of *Who*. And people demanding step

by step proof of the racism, because apparently it's all just the way things are written and we're making too much of it.

And really, were we talking about sexism and its stereotypes as framed for white women they might have a leg to stand on

but sexism isn't a one size fits all sort of a category. Portrayals of women (and the attendant sexism) vary greatly depending on the race of the woman. Generally speaking young white women have options in terms of being chaste/being sexy and being heroines or being painted as damsels in distress. That's because the key word there actually isn't the distress part. It's the word damsel. Damsels are always desirable, no matter how much ass they kick (or don't) and nothing they do makes them unworthy of love or protection.

The stereotype start to swing in whole new directions when it comes to other ethnic groups. Latina women (assuming you can find many on TV) are usually either oversexed or completely sexless with a large number of children. If they have Latino boyfriends/husbands the men are usually portrayed as criminals or at best overtly chauvinistic. Mostly though they aren't portrayed at all. There have been some exceptions, but not many and mostly those exceptions are in sitcoms. Asian women get to be sexy or smart, but generally not both and they certainly don't have relationships with Asian men. But hey, Asian men aren't usually portrayed at all or if they are the options are sexless, king fu master, or geek who is obsessed with sex. Doubt me? Find me ten Asian male characters that don't fit any of those molds. Same with Latino men. And just look at Tosh on Torchwood for the Asian woman stereotype that keeps screaming at the top of its lungs. You can also look at Lucy Liu in Ally McBeal.

Now, let's talk about black people. Black women tend to get two choices. Mammy or Jezebel. Occasionally the third option of Sapphire (see nagging shrew constantly emasculating a weak black man) rears its ugly head. But mostly the choices are asexual Mammy or nympho Jezebel. And yes, Martha is smart and she comes from a good family and really it's not like we see her or her family running around as servants complete with little uniforms...oh wait. Let's start with the portrayal of Martha as Mammy (see her taking care of the Doctor repeatedly including being a maid for three months but also working to support him in the 1960's), no agency of her own to speak of when it comes to saving the world (particularly when you note that the grand plan amounts to her telling everyone to clap to save Tinkerbelle) and then let's talk about her spending the entire season being made to feel like second best. She even gets the dubious joy of being told directly not to get above herself in Human Nature/Family of Blood. And I suppose the argument could be made that the characterizations were appropriate to the time of 1913.

However that doesn't tidy up the rest of the season where Martha alternates between flirting\* with every available white man that crosses her path, pining after the unattainable Doctor and sacrificing her pride to save the Great White Hope. Martha's repeatedly laying it all on the line for a guy that treats her like crap, and I don't mean his lack of interest in a relationship. I mean his telling her (even after it's clear that Saxon is the Master) that she doesn't need to know anything else about him, or the screaming at her (which happens a few times, but most notably in Utopia) and even the point at which she goes out to get them all dinner while he and Jack hide out in the Warehouse in Sound of Drums. Martha isn't being protected, she isn't treated as a damsel. It's the Strong Black Woman/Mammy myth complete with the idea that she is supposed to be willing

to sacrifice everything to protect the ones that can actually do some good. Theoretically I suppose the flirting is supposed to ameliorate the Mammy stereotype, but each time the flirtation is almost completely unconvincing (What is it with the guy in 42 flirting back, but then looking utterly shocked when she snogs him?) and there is no hope of the flirtation going anywhere. On an individual level the incidents aren't that bad, and could conceivably be construed as germane to the story.

But that doesn't explain the treatment of Tish and Francine. The portrayal of Francine as the Sapphire stereotype complete with the emasculated husband (who incidentally gets to be portrayed as a janitor) and Tish as a Jezebel that manages to get the hots for a man that was in his 80's a scant ten minutes earlier who has a wife no less is particularly telling. In fact we are told repeatedly that Tish is getting jobs for which she isn't remotely qualified solely as part of Saxon's master plan. He even tells her at one point that her job is to stand around looking pretty, which really made me wonder about sexual harassment laws in the UK. Yet he has no interest in capitalizing on Martha's relationship with her brother or her father until her Dad makes the effort to warn her. And you know, Tish didn't particularly strike me as a stupid girl when she and Martha were helping to stop Lazarus, so why wouldn't she be qualified for the PR job? She certainly seemed to manage to put together a beautiful gala in very short order. Martha's dad manages vaguely to attempt to fight back, but it's clear he isn't actually seen as being anywhere near as much of a threat as Jack. And Leo seemingly disappears completely from every one's mind. No strength or heroism to be found in him at all. And it's not just Martha's family that gets short shrift.

Let's not forget Mickey being portrayed first as ridiculously cowardly (cowering behind Rose's legs and then being called the idiot for most of his appearances) ala a whole host of racist stereotypes including the old favorite of Step and Fetchit. In fact even when Mickey manages to grow a pair and break it off with Rose it's still made very clear that he's useless, and he only manages to gain redemption by abandoning his entire life (which again apparently wasn't worth much anyway) and sidestepping into an alternate universe. One in which apparently he's still content being Rose's tin dog. There are very few character's of color in the Who verse to begin with, and for all of them to fit so neatly into various stereotypes? At some point that's not accidental nor is it germane to the story. Is it meant to be overt racism? No. But it fits the definition of aversive racism very nicely, as does the insistence of much of white fandom that the POC are seeing things that aren't there. Sometimes the people who regularly have to experience racism? Know it when they see it. And when the white fans that also see it say "Oh my yes, it's clearly there?" Then the Emperor is not wearing new clothes and carrying a bouquet, he's naked and carrying a noose.

\* I found it quite interesting that she never managed to be attracted to a single man of color, and neither was Tish. The Whoverse is mighty white even in the depths of space. In Gridlock the young couple trying to make a life involves a WOC and a white man. Newsflash, sometime POC date other POC. No really, and we make lovely successful families too. Also shockingly some MOC don't pine after white women.



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## Comics Industry Guest of Honor

# SHANNON WATTERS

In comics, you're not supposed to become friends with your editors.

Your editors are there to help you, to make your work better, but they're not there to be your buddy. Sure, you can be friendly, but that's about as far as it should go.

The reason is simple: comics is an itinerant business, and there will come a day when you're not on the book anymore, and this "friend" will have to, effectively, fire you. This whole process is easier if it's a business relationship. Everything goes smoothly if you're not friends.

Oops.

I still have the first email Shannon sent me. It's only a few sentences long, and it can be boiled down to "Hi, I'm Shannon, would you have any interest in writing *Adventure Time* comics?" When people ask me how I broke into comics, "I waited until Shannon Watters emailed me" is a lousy story. But that story obscures what actually happened. Shannon had been reading my webcomic, *Dinosaur Comics*, for over decade when she was still in school. She'd never emailed me (THANKS A LOT, SHANNON) but during those years in which I thought I was putting up some funny strips about talking dinosaurs, to Shannon I was actually showing my sense of humour, showing I could meet a deadline (especially one that's self-imposed, which are the hardest ones to meet), and showing the different sorts of things I was interested in telling stories about. Shannon graduated, got a job at a comics company, and when she was tasked with finding someone to write *Adventure Time*, she thought "hey, how about the *Dinosaur Comics* guy?"

(And this is the secret career advice section of this "why Shannon is so great" essay: put your work online. You never know who'll see it, and it turns your 10,000 hours of Gladwellian practice from something private to something that can be life-changing.)

Anyway, I wrote back and said yes, and then I met Braden Lamb and Shelli Paroline (the artists on the book) who also became friends, and we did 35 issues of the comic, all together as Team Comics. And then

Braden and Shelli and I got to decide that we wanted to pass the book off to a new team, so we took Shannon out to dinner. We had a great time, and then at the end of the meal we broke the news: we were going to leave the book. Shannon said she understood, said she knew

something like what we had on *Adventure Time* wouldn't last forever, couldn't last forever. It was all very professional. We were all very professional.

Then she looked at me, and I was on the verge of tears. And then she was on the verge of tears. And then I started crying and then she started crying and then we were all crying and it was a big mess and the other tables were uncomfortable, but they knew the risks. I was crying because I thought that this was maybe a friend breakup, that this was the end of the Shannon and Ryan and Braden and

Shelli show. But of course it wasn't. We've all worked together on things since then. I still call Shannon every time I have an excuse, and we chat for a long time before getting down to the ostensible reason for my call.

This is what's great about Shannon: she's someone who cares deeply about what she's working on, which is an ideal property in anyone, let alone an editor. She's creative, inventive, and open to whatever you have to bring her. You can put a crazy new idea on her desk that will make her job way harder, but if it makes the book better, she's always down for it. Beyond editing she also writes, so she knows the problems that can crop up from both sides of the table. She's responsible for a licensed comic from a cartoon show winning an Eisner Award. She co-created *Lumberjanes*, for crying out loud. And my entire career in print comics starts with Shannon Watters emailing me.

I'm so happy she's your Comics Industry Guest of Honour. Go meet her, go say hi. Check out the work she's shepherded into the world. You might laugh, you'll might be inspired, you might even be challenged.

But you won't be disappointed.

-- Ryan North



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# PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

**MARC ABRAHAMS** is the founder of the Ig Nobel Prize ceremony. The prizes, awarded each year since 1991, honor achievements that make people laugh, then think. He is also editor and co-founder of the science humor magazine *Annals of Improbable Research*, and the author of several books. His web site and blog are at [www.improbable.com](http://www.improbable.com)

**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 soon to be husband and their dog. Also, there is a cat. [facebook.com/KiRaLunaDance](https://www.facebook.com/KiRaLunaDance)

**HANNA LEE RUBIN ABRAMOWITZ** After having one of the hardest years of her life, Hanna is ready to have some fun. She is excited to get back in the world and share her love of nerd-culture. Stop by and say hi to her if you see her. She will likely be dressed in cosplay but an Eevee shirt and hat or not out of the question.

Three words that one might use to describe **ADRI** are "generic", "geek" and "girl". Sometimes all at once.

**HEATHER ALBANO** is a storyteller and game designer - the author of the steampunk time travel trilogy *Keeping Time*, the creator of the steampunk Sherlock-Holmes-themed interactive novel *A Study In Steampunk*, the co-creator of five Choice of Games titles, and a contributing writer to the Amazon Alexa game *Codename Cygnus*. She's always looking for new ways to tell stories, and is currently excited to bring her live action design experience to augmented reality games.

**DAWN ALBRIGHT** is involved in many different areas of fandom. She's a short story writer, editor of anthologies (*New Altars* and *Vision Quest*), a dollmaker and costumer. Her most recent project is a web journal called *Polu Texni* which can be found at

[www.polutexni.com](http://www.polutexni.com). Her dollmaking site is [www.dollmaking.org](http://www.dollmaking.org).

**E. C. AMBROSE** writes the *Dark Apostle* series of historical fantasy novels about medieval surgery concluding with volume 5, *Elisha Daemon* (02/18). As Elaine Isaak, she wrote *The Singer's Crown* and its sequels. Either way, you do **not** want to be her hero. 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'm also a peacemaker, and I am pretty much out of characters. Good night, and good luck.

**BEKAH ANDERSON** is a fantasy writer in training and disability activist. She is a co-founder of the student organization Collective of Students Affected by Ableism, which works to support students with disabilities and advocate for their needs. 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](http://bekahmaren.blogspot.com).

**MICHAEL ANDERSON**

**ANDREW ANSELMO** has been creating and folding origami for over 20 years, and

has been a street performer many years at Waterfire (Providence, RI) and other venues. He also has taught origami at local libraries and museums throughout New England. He is a member, instructor, and shop lead at Artisan's Asylum, a maker space in Somerville, MA. He is an engineering consultant on a wide variety of projects, and is also helping build a houseboat that sails.

**ATHENA SCHOOL OF ARMS** is a Boston-based Modern School of Historical Fencing and Martial Arts. We have two primary programs: the Longsword tradition of Johannes Lichtenauer, and a rotating schedule of Rapier, Broadsword, Sabre, Smallsword, Dagger, Sword & Buckler, and Grappling arts. Training includes free play, drills, test cutting, and physical fitness; together, these elements help students to understand and recreate combat on the battlefield, the list, and in personal defense. Find us on Facebook.

**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* (2018). 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](http://inannaarthen.com).

**TERRI ASH** is the Manager and Artist Wrangler at Geek Calligraphy. She's an avid knitter who cooks, makes her own jam, and gardens via the practice of benign neglect. A voracious consumer of many kinds of SFF media, nothing makes her happier than talking about it for hours.

**LISA A. ASHTON** is a SF/Fantasy/ Historical costumer living in Harpers Ferry, WV. Last Arisia, she was part of "3-fold Goddess" winning BIS. 2017 also saw her in "Sweet 16's" at Balticon and tied for BIS at the CC35 Historical. 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.

## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

Author. Fencer. Sometime actor. Full-time nerd. **J.M. AUCOIN** writes swashbucklers & award-winning historical adventure novels. He's also an avid costumer/cosplayer. Visit him at [jmaucoin.com](http://jmaucoin.com)

**JACQUI B.** I run the editing business Literary Sidekick. I'm a member of Editorial Freelancers Association and a graduate of Emerson College's Writing, Literature, and Publishing program. My superpowers are storytelling and editing. My fandoms are many: *Hundred Thousand Kingdoms*, *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, Kamala Khan/Ms. Marvel, Storm/X-Men, *Graceling*, *The Parasol Protectorate*, Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur, *Bitch Planet*, and the list goes on.

**KEL BACHUS's** published several stories under their prior name Kate Bachus, most recently "Pinono Deep" in Asimov's and the Sturgeon finalist "Things Greater than Love" in *Strange Horizons*. Game design credits include narrative design work on *Elder Scrolls Online*, 38 Studios' unrelased *Kingdoms of Amalur* MMO and Disruptor Beam's *Game of Thrones* game, in conjunction with George RR Martin and HBO. They are currently an Assistant Professor of Game Design at Champlain College.

Dr. **DARCIE LITTLE BADGER** is a Lipan Apache scientist and writer. Her short fiction has appeared in places like *Love Beyond Body, Space, and Time* (Nicholson, ed.), *Strange Horizons*, *The Dark*, *Mythic Delirium*, *Fantastic Stories of the Imagination*, and *Cicada Magazine*. Darcie's debut comic, "Worst Bargain in Town," was published in *Moonshot: The Indigenous Comics Collection, Volume 2*. She has comics forthcoming in *Relational Constellation* and *Deer Woman: An Anthology by Native Realities*.

**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 is preparing to launch his new urban fantasy trilogy *Well-Behaved Women* in 2018. In his spare time Michael is a regular

performer and stage combat director with the Connecticut Renaissance Faire.

**STEPHEN R. BALZAC**, Ph.D., is the author of *The 36-Hour Course in Organizational Development* and *Organizational Psychology for Managers*. He has written over 20 LARPs and was a member of the original Society for Interactive Literature. Steve was the founder of the MIT Assassins' Guild and, with his wife, Aimee Yermish, founder of the Society for Interactive Literature West. Steve's doctoral research was on LARPing and leadership.

**JESS BARBER** lives in Cambridge, MA, where she spends her days (and sometimes nights) building open-source electronics. She is a graduate of the 2015 Clarion Writing Workshop, and her work has recently appeared in *Strange Horizons*, *Lightspeed*, *Clarkesworld*, and *The Year's Best Science Fiction*. You can find her online at [www.jess-barber.com](http://www.jess-barber.com).

Born in poverty, raised in mythology **MARZELL BARKER** is always curious about what people think. Currently a graduate studying counseling psychology, after receiving their license they plan to be certified in sex therapy. 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, artist, 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](http://drownedtownpress.com)) are sold across the country.

**REUBEN BARON** is a writer, filmmaker, and general nerd with a particular interest in animation. They do freelance writing for Comic Book Resources and used to write for MyAnimeList before they censored one of their articles to appease Nazis (seriously). Short films of theirs include *The Music of Erich Zann* (based on the Lovecraft short story) and *The Making of a Superhero Musical* (featuring Neil Gaiman!).

**BEAZLEBUB**

**STEVE BERMAN**

**ELIZABETH BIRDSALL** is a longtime fan and occasional author, as well as a queer lady and a lover of a wide variety of random subjects. She has had short stories published here and there, most notably in the "Women Destroy Science Fiction!" special issue of *Lightspeed Magazine*. She lives in the Boston area with two excellently geeky housemates and two extremely inept cats.

**CAROL BITTENSON** has been part of the Boston area contra dance community her whole life. She is a classically trained violinist and an avid contra dancer, starting both at an early age. Over 30 years ago, she put the two together and began playing fiddle for contra dances. She has played all over New England and as far as California and believes that dancing and playing for dances is more fun than anything. Her playing has been described as rhythmic and driving.

**W. "IAN" BLANTON**

**CHARLIE BOATNER** has written for DC and Vertigo, Marvel, Archie, and other publishers. His favorite projects were a Batman/Metal Men teamup, a T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents reboot, and the graphic novel *The Hiding Place* with artist Steve Parkhouse. He answered children's letters to DC's kids' books as "Johnny DC." He draws the webstrip [www.BureauofBeasties.com](http://www.BureauofBeasties.com).

**JOHN BORECKI**

**ERIC BORNSTEIN**

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# THE **ARTWORK** OF **ASHE SAMUELS**



## SELECTED ART

"Harpy Stars" - *Front cover*

"Rose Fawn" - *Inside front cover*

"Owl Beer" - *Page 3*

"Power and Magic Press" - *Page 6*

"Monster Girl May Harpy" - *Page 27*

"Encounter" - *Pages 28-29*

"Squid Ball" - *Page 30*

"Deer Princeling" - *Page 30*

"Two Bettamaids" - *Page 30*













## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

**AIMEE BOUCHARD** is a bi, poly, kinky, geeky, hippie, crafty, girly sort of gal.

### ANGELA BOWEN

**ANNA R. BRADLEY** is a gamer, LARPer, costumer, knitter, software engineer and volunteering junkie. Anna has played and run LARP for over 20 years. She has been playing and running Garou games for the past 10. Last year she was the con chair of Arisia. This year she is division head of registration.

**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.

### CHRIS BRATHWAITE

**JAMES BREDT** was one of two technical founders of Z Corporation, which makes 3D Printers, and 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.

**ML BRENNAN** is the author of the *Generation V* urban fantasy series, where an utterly non-sparkly vampire and his kitsune wing-woman roam the mean streets of Providence and face the existential question of how to pay this month's rent. The four books combine humor, horror, vampiric family tensions, and pop culture references. Brennan holds an MFA in writing and is employed as an adjunct professor. Follow her at @BrennanML or visit at [www.mlbreannan.com](http://www.mlbreannan.com).

**ROBIN BRENNER** is Teen Librarian at the Public Library of Brookline. She writes articles, nonfiction guides, and fandom coverage for professional journals. She has served on awards committees from the Michael L. Printz Award to the Will Eisner

Comic Industry Awards. She is editor-in-chief of *No Flying No Tights*. She loves speculative stories in every format from comics to podcasts to television shows.

**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.

### DANIEL BRIAN

### TERRI BRUCE

**RACHEL A. BRUNE** is the author of the *Rick Keller Project* series, published by Untold Press, as well as many other works of short fiction. She publishes interviews and articles on her blog, *Infamous Scribbler*, as well as a series on Medium about writing as a veteran.

**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 Campbell 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 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 [www.mabfan.com](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-nerdity, Nomi knits, sews, and performs amateur word-nerdity. She lives in Brookline, MA,

with her husband, Michael A. Burstein, and their twin daughters.

### JONATHAN CADEMY-PFEFFER

Writing, cooking, fandom, costuming, history, gaming, music, kink, polyamory, paganism... a little bit of this and that all combining into a quirky package.

**MILDRED CADY'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 available on DVD from Midway Pictures. He is currently working on a film about immersive theater. 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.

### CAITLIN

**IAN CAMPBELL** Works in IT, moonlights as an amateur collectible card game developer. Likes long swordfights on the beach, space cowboys, Oberyn Martell, giant monsters/robots, and games. *Many games.*

The Barony of **THE WAYTES OF CAROLINGIA** is the Boston branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, a worldwide club that recreates the fun bits of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. We do everything from armored combat to dance to brewing to fencing to storytelling. All are welcome: if you're interested, we'd be happy to provide more information. The Waytes are Carolingia's dance band, who practice regularly and perform at balls around the region.

**GRANT CARRINGTON** Member, Clarion 68-69, Tulane 71, associate editor *Amazing/Fantastic* 72-74, Nebula finalist 76, *Time's Fool* (novel, Doubleday, 1981). Brief Candle Press: *Time's Fool and Other Stories* (2014), *Annapolis to Andromeda* (collection, 2015), *Down in the Barraque* (novel, 2015). CDBaby: *Songs Without Wisdom* (2001), *Ancient Laughter* (2011). Full production, 5 plays, Baltimore, 1982-1993. Computer

## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

programmer, Goddard Space Flight Center 62-68, Savannah River Ecology Lab 77-80. Math BA 1962, MA 1970.

**D. L. CARTER** was decanted from her incubation pod in the outback of Australia many decades ago. This terrifying event was closely followed by shrieks of "there, there it goes. Hit it with a brick!" These valiant attempts to correct the existence of D.L. were, unfortunately, unsuccessful and she now resides in New Jersey in a box with her toys, two human beings, and three cats.

**MELISSA CARUBIA** acts, sings, dances, games, and composes in the Boston area. She wrote the award-winning musical *T: An MBTA Musical*, and *Beneath the Skin*, a musical about mental illness. Her performance credits include *Avenue Q*, *Les Misérables* and *The Little Mermaid* with the Company Theatre, plus performing with ImprovBoston and Urban Improv. She also can be found rocking out on keytar with her band, Minusworld. During the day she is Director of Education for the Company Theatre of Norwell.

**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](http://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. Married to Andy Hicks.

**AURORA CELESTE**

**JULIA CHARTOVE**

**DON CHASE** Author, illustrator, picture taker and hopefully-one-day movie maker.

**ELLEN CHEESEMAN-MEYER** blogs for tor.com. She has written re-reads of Mercedes Lackey's *Valdemar* series and Lois McMaster Bujold's *Vorkosigan Saga*. She also teaches history and reads a lot. In November 2017, Ellen served as a voting town meeting representative in her hometown.

The **CHEMAS GROUP** (Cambridge Historical European Martial Arts Studies) translates and interprets extant combat treatises from the medieval, Renaissance, and early modern eras. Its members occasionally present demonstrations based on their work.

**BENJAMIN CHICKA** holds a Ph.D. in philosophy of religion and theology from



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## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

Claremont Graduate University and is the co-founder of TheoNerd.com. His academic work focuses on the relationship between religion and science, American pragmatism, and religious pluralism. Benjamin has published scholarly articles 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.

**BOB CHIPMAN** is a film critic and entertainment writer for Geek.com and Screen Rant, Chairman of the Boston Online Film Critics Association and the creator of *In Bob We Trust*, *The Game OverThinker*, *The Big Picture* and *Escape to The Movies*. He has published seven volumes of collected work, along with the full-length gaming analysis book *Super Mario Bros 3: Brick-By-Brick*.

**GWENDOLYN CLARE**'s debut novel, *Ink, Iron and Glass*, is the first in a steampunk duology about a young mad scientist with the ability to write new worlds into existence, coming out Feb 20, 2018 from Imprint/Macmillan. Her short fiction has appeared in *Asimov's*, *Analog*, *Fantasy & Science Fiction*, and *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, among others. She teaches college biology in central Pennsylvania.

**ZACHARY CLEMENTE** lives in Boston and writes for and about comics. He's been published at least once and helps run MICE. Office hours are at Diesel Cafe, typically 7AM-10AM Mondays and Thursdays.

**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. *Parallax* (*Halcyone Space* Book 4), her 7th novel, was published in 2017. She lives outside Boston with her family, her dogs, and the occasional international student. [www.ljcohen.net](http://www.ljcohen.net)

**WILL COON** designs secret dating sims for government agencies.

**TODD COOPER** is a consummate computer geek. Todd has a BA in Computer Science from Colgate University as well as an MBA and Masters in Computer Science from

WPI. Todd travels to Canada frequently and although a proud US citizen can name all the Canadian provinces. Todd is passionate about cutting up nice plush soft stuff animals and making them into creative monsters.

**ANDREA CORBIN** is a Boston-based writer of speculative fiction. She has work in *Shimmer*, *Flash Fiction Online*, *Crossed Genres*, *Sub-Q*, *The Sockdolager*, and *Recompose*. All of her work, including interactive fiction, can be found at her website, [amcorbin.com](http://amcorbin.com). She also talks a lot of nonsense on Twitter @rosencrantz, and has a cat named Hatshepsut.

**SITH LANTERN COSPLAY** Extra-Life (Extra-life.org), 2009 - Present; Boston Guild VP 2002-2005; Boston Guild President 2005-Present. Rebel Legion ([rebellegion.com](http://rebellegion.com)), Alderaan Base, 2016 - Present; Luke Skywalker (*The Force Awakens*), Generic Jedi. 501st Legion ([501st.com](http://501st.com)), New England Garrison, 2016 - Present. Mandalorian Mercs ([mandalorianmerc.com](http://mandalorianmerc.com)), Firaxan Clan, 2017 - Present. Costumes: Sith Lantern, Darth Vader, Assasith Creed, Jedi, Luke Skywalker (*TEA*), Mandalorian, Imperial Officers.

**CORBIN COVAULT** is on the faculty of the physics department at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio where he teaches physics (usually introductory physics) and conducts research in experimental astrophysics, specifically high energy cosmic ray physics and ground-based gamma-ray astronomy. He is also pursuing research in observational optical SETI.

**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 has previously published stories in *Nature Futures*, *Daily Science Fiction*, and *Black Gate*. In 2016, he and his wife, Kristin Janz, published the anthology *Mysterion*.

**DEIRDRE CRIMMINS** is a Cleveland-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 FilmThrills.com.

**JAMES CRONEN** is a nerd-of-all-trades who enjoys running, board gaming, microelectronics, juggling, and making cocktails. He strives to teach his sons to appreciate the finer things in life: Picasso's blue period, Dvorak's Eighth Symphony, wildflowers undulating in a summer breeze, and rolling a natural 20 when you desperately need it. James spends his days writing software and evenings communing with wife Robin, their three boys, and good friends new and old in Troy, NY.

**MORGAN CROOKS** grew up in the Finger Lakes of New York, a beautiful part of the country carved into being by ancient glaciers. He now lives with his wife 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](http://ancientlogic.blogspot.com).

**ALEX CUMMING**

**M.J. CUNNIFF** is a PhD student at Brown University, interested in poetry, ecopoetics, feminism, queer theory, and representations of alterity (or, for the elevator pitch, "gay witches and weird trees from 1400 to 2017.") They are also a poetry editor at *Strange Horizons*.

**LEO D'ENTREMONT** has been a contributing panelist at Arisia for ten years, speaking on topics ranging from costuming to gender issues to Star Trek to autism. He's a biologist, veteran, published author, EMT, and all-round nerd. He's currently working on a book about gender issues in the United States. If you offer him a nice Scotch, he'll happily sit down with you and talk about almost anything. He's still amazed that his fabulous wife lets him run around at Arisia unsupervised.

**GAREN DALY**

**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*, *Strange Horizons*, *Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet*, and other venues. She's also a local theater

## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

critic with The New England Theatre Geek blog. She blogs and sometimes posts drawings at [www.gilliandaniels.com](http://www.gilliandaniels.com).

For all your late-night dancing needs, **DANNER** provides downtempo music to feel the flow. Focusing on fusion partner dance, he'll provide the beats necessary to connect with other dancers. Bring whatever dance styles you have, you'll be able to incorporate them. Flow arts also encouraged!

**CHRISTOPHER K. DAVIS** is a long-time reader of science fiction, player of board games, and computer systems wrangler.

An avid gamer (role-playing and miniatures) and reader (sci-fi and fantasy, mainly) since early adolescence, **T. CHRISTOPHER DAVIS** is now an amateur game designer and writer, as the love for the written word has grabbed hold and taken control of his soul. Now he only hopes to find a buyer for what he loves to write so that he may do much more of it.

**RANDEE DAWN** is a Brooklyn-based author and journalist whose stories have been published in *Fantasia Divinity*, *Well-Told Tales* and the *Children of a Different Sky* anthology, among others. She is the author of the short story collection *Home for the Holidays* and co-author of the *Law & Order: SVU Unofficial Companion*. When not making stuff up she is a journalist who writes for outlets including *Variety*, the *L.A. Times* and the *Today Show*. Her Westie, Birdie, says, "Rowf!"

**JULIE C. DAY** has published over two dozen stories in magazines such as *Interzone*, *Podcastle*, *Black Static*, and *Electric Velocipede*. Her first collection, *Uncommon Miracles*, is forthcoming from PS Publishing. Julie holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of Southern Maine and a Masters of Science in microbiology from the University of Massachusetts. You can find her at [@thisjulieday](mailto:@thisjulieday) or on her blog [stillwingingit.com](http://stillwingingit.com). Café writing and long baths with paper books are also a thing.

**TOM DEADY's** first novel, *Haven*, won the 2016 Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement in a First Novel. Tom's second novel, *Eternal Darkness*, was released in early 2017. His novella, *Weekend Getaway*, will be available later this year from Grinning Skull Press. Tom also has a young adult series for which he is seeking agent representation. Tom has a Master's Degree in English and creative writing from SNHU. He resides in Massachusetts where he is working on his next novel.

**ANGELA DECARLIS** is a classically trained portrait artist, contra dance caller, graphic designer, and jazz singer. Whether she's drawing musicians, scatting vocals at a contra dance, or teaching musicians how to process their experiences through visual art forms like Crankies, you will always find her frolicking at the interstices of her many beloved communities. Her work can be seen online at [www.angeladecarlis.com](http://www.angeladecarlis.com).

**DANIEL P. DERN**

**ALEXA DICKMAN** is a blogger who runs the *Ladies Making Comics* Tumblr ([www.ladiesmakingcomics.com](http://www.ladiesmakingcomics.com)). She is also a member of the Boston Comics Roundtable (though currently living in the DC-area) and an avid comics historian who runs the *Women in Comics* wiki ([womenincomics.wikia.com](http://womenincomics.wikia.com)). She's also a newly-minted IP nerd. Her other interests include fanfiction, buying books she has no time to read, making her own tea blends, and young, scrappy and hungry founding fathers.

**DJ DIRGE** (Allure, Excess, Haven) is known for his raucous parties and genre-defying mixing. Dirge is the resident DJ at several dance nights in and around Boston and New England. Dirge's musical selections range from EBM, IDM, electro, dubstep, new wave, goth, and rock. Never one to hold back, Dirge infuses energy and excitement into every event. Dirge is New England's only living-dead DJ, playing music to wake the dead.

**DJ XERO** (Haven, Excess), an operative of SeeDarkly™, has spun regularly in New England's dark alternative goth-industrial dance club scene since 2006. He also writes a weekly blog about dark-alternative cover songs and their origins. For mixes, playlists,

blogs, and upcoming events, find him online: [xero.seedarkly.com](http://xero.seedarkly.com)

**CLAY DOCKERY**

**N.S. DOLKART** is the author of two-and-a-half novels: *Silent Hall*, its sequel *Among the Fallen*, and the half-finished *A Breach in the Heavens*, which will be published by Angry Robot Books in October. By day he is the Memory Care Director at an assisted living residence, a career that has bled into his writing only a little. He is a fine upstanding citizen, despite his mysterious love for epic fantasy.

**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 Bavaria" in *Conspiracy!*, from NESFA Press, and "Gertrude of Wyoming" in *Altered States of the Union*, from Crazy 8 Press.

**MICHELLE DRISCOLL** lives in Western Massachusetts with 3 partners (who can be found running Fast Track) and their three kids. She has hosted relationship discussion groups of many sorts in the poly and kink worlds, and has been involved in the leadership of Transcending Boundaries, Inc. She identifies as queer, femme, polyamorous, and geek-adjacent.

**THOM DUNN** is a writer, musician, and new media artist. He is a published fiction and comic book author, a former Playwriting Fellow at Boston's Huntington Theatre Company, and a writer for the New York Times' *Wirecutter*, Upworthy, and other sites. Thom enjoys mythophysics, robots and whiskey, and Oxford commas, and firmly believes that Journey's "Don't Stop Believing" is the single greatest atrocity ever committed against mankind. He is represented by the Kepner Agency. [thomdunn.net](http://thomdunn.net) / [@thomdunn](https://twitter.com/thomdunn)





# Chessiecon 2018

November 23-25, 2018 at the Radisson North Baltimore

## Guest of Honor: Jo Walton



Jo Walton has published thirteen novels, most recently *Necessity*. She has also published three poetry collections, an essay collection, and *Starlings*, a collection of short stories. She won the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer in 2002, the World Fantasy Award for *Tooth and Claw* in 2004, the Hugo and Nebula awards for *Among Others* in 2012, and in 2014 both the Tiptree Award for *My Real Children* and the Locus Non Fiction award for *What Makes This Book So Great*. She comes from Wales but lives in Montreal where the food and books are much better. She gets bored easily so she tends to write books that are different from each other. Her work includes two alternate histories, a trilogy about gods and robots setting up Plato's Republic, an urban fantasy, a domestic fantasy, a sentimental Victorian novel where all the characters are dragons, and she is presently working on a book she describes as "Savonarola Groundhog Day". She also reads a lot, enjoys travel, theatre, talking about books, and eating great food. She plans to live to be ninety-nine and write a book every year.

## Music Guest of Honor: Mary Crowell

Dr. Crowell teaches music theory and music appreciation at a local North Alabama community college as well as private piano lessons out of her home studio. She loves to write songs about mythology, gaming, beagles, pomegranates, and lately -- running. She has been enjoying the challenge of writing a song per week (or more) since the beginning of 2017 as part of an online songwriters group. She also makes short quirky midi compositions and arranges piano music, violin and piano duets, marimba duets, and more! These past two years she's been filming and editing fun music videos with a host of incredibly creative people (including her son Simon Crowell and her husband Wesley Crowell) for her patrons on Patreon.

Dr. Crowell is active in several bands, but primarily gigs with Play It With Moxie and Three Weird Sisters, releasing respectively Play It With Moxie, Live! (2012) and, Third Thyme's the Charm (2012). Both bands were created in the greater Atlanta area of Georgia through the GAFIA filk community, but now include members living in London, England; Toronto, Ontario; and the Midwest.



Membership Rates			
	Adult	Age 12-18	Under 12
Through December 31, 2017	\$45	\$35	Free
Through March 15, 2018	\$50	\$40	Free
Through November 1, 2018	\$55	\$45	Free
At Door	\$60	\$45	Free

Full programming tracks in science fiction, fantasy, feminism, myths, music, costuming, and steampunk!  
Workshops, vendors, meet & greets, dances, gaming, author readings, bardic circle, and much more!

## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

You've seen **GREYKELL (WEREWOLF!!)** **DUTTON** before in the morning at coat check, or backstage at the masquerade and starting in 2017 on random panels. She is a professional mom, a master of a ridiculous number of eclectic skills and was the Arisia Fan Guest of Honor in 2017. Volunteering is life! Fun is the most important discipline of all!

### KATARINA DUTTON

**JILL EASTLAKE** is a Master Costumer and Lifetime Achievement Award winner is the International Costumers' Guild. She has run Masquerades at Arisia, Costume-Con, and Worldcons. As part of a group costume she has also won Best in Show for Presentation at Noreascon 4. She has participated on staff and committees for Arisias, Boskones, Worldcons, and Costume-Cons. And, she is a recruiter, so beware as she lures you into something fun and exciting!

**GAIA EIRICH** I am a master costumer and I have been costuming at conventions for almost twenty years. I have been sewing and creating costumes in a wide variety of forms including fantasy, historical, and anime costumes for conventions and commissions, belly dance costumes for a studio, wedding dresses, accessories, and also basic quilt-making. I am also the secretary of the Greater Columbia Fantasy Costumer's Guild (GCFCG), the local chapter of the International Costumer's Guild (ICG).

**GENEVIEVE ISEULT ELDREDGE** writes angsty LGBTQ urban fantasy YA romance — where girls who are mortal enemies kick butt, take names, and fall in love against all odds. She enjoys long hikes in the woods, believing in fairies (in fact, she's clapping right now), being a self-rescuing princess, and writing diverse books about teenage girls finding love, romance, and their own inner power. She might be planning high tea at the Fae Court right now. Her *Circuit Fae* series is taking Amazon and Goodreads by storm!

**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 is also an organizer and event host for Boston Skeptics, a group of nerds promoting science and critical thinking.

**LYNDSAY ELY** is the author of *Gunslinger Girl*, which is her debut novel. 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. An inhabitant of Boston, she spends her free time pursuing the best cocktails in the city, searching thrift stores for hidden treasures, and lurking around local cons.

**RUTHANNA EMRYS** is the author of *Winter Tide*, the first book in the *Innsmouth Legacy* series. *Deep Roots* is forthcoming in July 2018. Ruthanna co-writes Tor.com's *Lovecraft Reread*, and writes short stories about religion and aliens and psycholinguistics. She lives in a mysterious manor house on the outskirts of Washington, DC with her wife and their large, strange family. She makes home-made vanilla, gives unsolicited advice, and occasionally attempts to save the world.

**ANNA ERISHKIGAL** is an attorney who writes fiction under a pen-name so her colleagues don't question whether her legal pleadings are fantasy fiction as well. Much of law, it turns out, *is* fantasy fiction. Lawyers just prefer to call it "zealously representing your client."

### CHRISTINE EVANS

**LISA EVANS** Writing, costuming, researching, reenacting, gaming, even co-founding one of the oldest college science fiction clubs in the country — I've done it all, and then some. Ask me about my feminist/fannish agenda!

**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.

**LILY FEHLER** is a cosplayer, theatrical costumer, costume historian, historical seamstress, and an MA candidate at the Fashion Institute of Technology in historic textile conservation. Her special interests are Spanish traditional costume, 19th century fashion, and the dress of working women in the early 20th century. She has won awards for her costumes at Arisia and in other major competitions, the most recent at New York Comic Con and Anime Boston. Find her on Instagram @albinoshadowfire

**ALEX FEINMAN** hacks hackers for a living: he helps design a programming language used by millions worldwide. His sci-fi thriller *Duplicate* and cyberpunk series *We Were Gods* are available online. he is currently finishing up a YA fantasy novel.

**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, games, fanfiction, and fanvids. 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** is a writer and editor who won the Glenna Luschei Award for her short story "Fracture." She lives in Boston, where she is currently at work on multiple novels.

### SARA FELIX

**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.

### FISH

**GREG R. FISHBONE** is the author of books for young readers including the *Galaxy Games* series of sporty sci-fi novels, featuring a team of Earth kids competing



## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

against aliens across the Milky Way. His current project takes Mycenaean gods and monsters in a new direction of myth-based fantasy. More info at [gfishbone.com](http://gfishbone.com)

**COLETTE H. FOZARD** has been keeping SF and anime conventions running for more than twenty years. Her love of working at conventions has led to a professional event-planning career and she is the Director of Operations for the Sakura Matsuri Japanese Street Festival in Washington, DC each spring — the largest one-day celebration of Japanese Culture in the United States. She served as Vice Chair of Worldcon 75 and is a DDH in Facilitation for Dublin 2019, an Irish Worldcon.

**WILLIAM FRANK**, aka "scifantasy," is a geek and lawyer, in roughly that order. Professionally, he is an in-house trademark counsel, has interned for the Electronic Frontier Foundation and the Creative Commons, and was a computer programmer before he turned to evil—err, law. Fannishly, he has interests in pretty much everything, entered fandom through filk, and was Vice-Administrator of the 2016 Hugo Awards. This is Will's eighth Arisia, his sixth as a panelist.

**TERRY FRANKLIN**, from Amherst, MA, has written science fiction and science journalism, along with being a political activist, and book lover. His new novel is *Winter Dream*.

**ADAM FROMM** is a musician, writer, crossword constructor, the bearded half of folk duo Murder Ballads, and a man with insufficient control over his hair's daily activities. He has recently moved to the wilds of Rhode Island in a bid to bolster his underdog status, and between songwriting, performing, procrastinating on editing that same damn novel, and commuting daily to Lexington for reasons even he doesn't understand, he keeps pretty busy. Can be bribed with Thai food.

**ED FUQUA**

**BERNIE GABIN**

**KEN GALE**'s first published story, "Swords in the World Series," was recently reprinted by Dark Horse, and 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, and 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](http://www.comicbookradioshow.com)

**GAMES BY PLAY DATE** is a game design and publishing studio centered in southern New Hampshire. They make analog games that interest them and hopefully you.

**CRAIG SHAW GARDNER** is the author of a bunch of books and short stories, many of which are now being released as e-books. His latest novel, *Temporary Monsters*, features an unemployment agency that secretly controls the world.

**JAIME GARMENDIA** is 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*. He has run both the Programming and Exhibits Divisions in past years. In his secret identity, he is a lifelong public servant.

**DR. PAMELA GAY** is an astronomer, writer, and podcaster focused on using new media to engage people in science and technology. She works as the Director of Technology and Citizen Science at the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. Through [cosmoquest.org](http://cosmoquest.org), she engages people in learning and doing science. Join me as we map our solar system in unprecedented detail through our citizen science projects, and learn astronomy through media productions like *Astronomy Cast*.

Tiptree, World Fantasy, **GREER GILMAN**, 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's a member of the Boston Speculative Fiction Writing Group, New England Asexuals, Boston Sci-Fi/Fantasy Meetup Group, Historyphiles, and Dress Up Boston. Julia lives north of Boston and—when her nose isn't buried in a book—can often be found procrastinating on Etsy, perusing the NaNoWriMo forums, and stealing her roommate's lapdog. Keep up with Julia on Twitter @JGilstein.

**LARISSA GLASSER** is a librarian, genre writer, and queerAF trans woman from Boston. Her work has appeared in *Wicked Haunted* (New England Horror Writers), *Tragedy Queens*: stories inspired by Lana Del Rey and Sylvia Plath (Clash Books), and *Resilience*: a collection of stories by trans writers (Heartspark Press). Her debut novella *F4* is available from Eraserhead Press. She is a Member at Large of Broad Universe. She is on Twitter @larissaglasser and blogs at <https://larissaglasser.com/>.

**MEHITABEL GLENHABER**

**TANYA GOLD** is a book editor, writing coach, and literary omnivore. She works on fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. It has been suggested that she owns too many dictionaries for her own good.

**ANA GONDRING**

**TIMOTHY GOYETTE** was born, raised, and lives in New Hampshire. He is the Editor of *Quantum Muse*, an 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*.

**ANABEL GRAETZ** has helped professional singers solve serious problems and helped thousands conquer the fear of singing. Trained in Bel Canto, studied on a Fulbright Fellowship in Bulgaria; sings with the Victorian duo The Proper Ladies (a.k.a. The Bawdy Ladies) creator of The Festival of Light & Song and the all-woman ensemble Laduvane. Screen credits: Mrs. Merriman in *Olive Kitteridge*; Ida in *Ida's 85th Birthday*

## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

*Party*; on the escalator with John Lithgow in *Daddy's Home 2*; and Ruth in the upcoming *Island Zero*.

**APRIL GRANT** lives in Somerville, MA. She has published poetry in *Strange Horizons* and *Mythic Delirium*. She is a singer, storyteller, and poet.

**SIDNEY J HACKNEY** is a software engineer (read: professional nerd) and an admin for the occasionally-rabid fan group Boston Whovians! Though largely composed of cat hair, Sidney 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.

**ABBY HAFER** is a professor of anatomy and physiology. She has a D.Phil. in zoology from Oxford University and gives frequent public lectures debunking Creationism, Intelligent Design, and the gender binary. Her book, *The Not-So-Intelligent Designer: Why Evolution Explains the Human Body and Intelligent Design Does Not*, has been followed by a chapter on "Christianity in the Light of Science" in the upcoming book *Women v. Religion* and co-authorship of the upcoming book *Darwin's Apostles*.

**JAMES HAILER** is a writer, artist and adventurer born and raised in Boston Massachusetts. Sometimes he's writing science fiction, sometimes he's doing science experiments in his garage. On top of that he writes and draws the web comic, *Myanmar Folktales*, learns more languages than people know exist and travels the world eating all the best food. When he's not splitting infinitives or atoms he's planning a wedding for his lovely wife and himself this October.

**ANDREA HAIRSTON** is author of *Will Do Magic For Small Change*, finalist for the Mythopoeic Award, Lambda Award, Tiptree Award, and a *New York Times* Editor's pick. Other novels include: *Redwood and Wildfire*, a Tiptree and Carl Brandon Award winner, and *Mindscape*, winner of a Carl Brandon Award. She has also published essays, plays, and short fiction, and received grants from the NEA, Rockefeller Foundation, and Ford Foundation. Andrea is a professor of theatre and Africana studies at Smith College.

**KATIE HALLAHAN** is an award-winning game designer, co-owner and founder of Phoenix Online Studios, lifelong sci-fi and fantasy reader and writer, TV junkie (and sometimes reviewer), incorrigible snarker, shipper, and Boston native. In her day job, she's also a mild-mannered editor and content strategist.

**PHILLIP HALLAM-BAKER**

**FOREST HANDFORD** is a fire artist from Berlin, MA. Forest works as an engineering manager at Affectiva. While not at work, he's bringing his family on wacky adventures. His website is EastCoastGames.com, where he publishes video and writings about various topics. He recently founded VoteSquared.org, the site for rating politicians. Forest is currently working on publishing a novel called *Cyber Revolution* about gender equity in tech and how tech companies can fight against bad governments.

**BUZZ HARRIS** is a former Arisia conchair, and, in his real life, was the Executive Director of the Ida B. Wells Center for Investigative Journalism. He recently retired to take up life as a professional mosaic artist (and sometime troublemaker).

**MORGANA HARTMAN** has been reading manga for most of her life, and has written about anime and manga for *Amazing Stories Magazine*, *The Mary Sue*, and *Kronos' Speakeasy*. She has been the manga buyer and manager at Comicopia in Kenmore Square for the last two and a half years. When she's not chin-deep in manga... well, she's pretty much always chin-deep in manga. But she also likes tea, cats, bishonen, and ghosts. Follow her on Twitter @MorganaRhalina for more rants about being a professional nerd.

**GLENN HAUMAN**

**ROSE HAYES** is an engineering director at Google, where she has lead a variety of machine intelligence projects, including the Knowledge Graph. She's been an avid science fiction fan since she was 8 years old and attended her first science fiction convention at the age of 16 (Boskone, as Arisia did not exist yet). She is active in LGBTQ rights and serves on the board of

two national LGBTQ rights organizations. She lives in San Francisco with her partner and two floofy cats.

**WES HAZARD**

**JEFF HECHT** writes about science and technology for magazines including *New Scientist*, *IEEE Spectrum*, *Nature*, *Optics & Photonics News* and *Sky & Telescope* on topics from planetary science and lasers to dinosaurs. His short fiction has appeared in *Nature Futures*, *Analog*, *Asimov's*, *Daily Science Fiction*, *Twilight Zone*, *Interzone*, *Odyssey* and several anthologies. His books include *Understanding Lasers* and *City of Light: The Story of Fiber Optics* and he is writing a history of laser weapons.

**ALEC HELLER**

**LISA HERTEL** is an artist from a long line of artists (to be continued). She mostly 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, along with 300 other artists, at Western Avenue Studios in Studio #109 in Lowell, where she offers art classes for children and adults.

For the past three decades **HILARY L. HERTZOFF** has assisted on and off with various con committees, and participated in both rl and online fan communities. Her current projects include volunteering with Archive of Our Own and co-modding Yuletide, a multifandom fanfic exchange, when she's not working as a children's librarian. She's also owned by two bunnies. They'll tell you that this is the most important thing to know about her, but they're biased.

**ANDY HICKS** is the producer and co-host of the *Coal Hill* AV Club podcast and a producer for WGBH in Boston, where he's worked on projects for *Stories From The Stage*, *The Curiosity Desk*, and *Downton Abbey*. He's an actor, musician, video artist, sound designer, and fuzzy-headed dreamer with a heart of gold. He's also been published in *Outside In Makes It So*, *Why I Geek*, and *You On Target*, and performs



## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

Doctor Who based rap battles on Youtube. He hasn't slept since election day, either.

### WOODROW HILL

**ELLIE HILLIS** is an essayist, game designer, comics historian and cosplayer. Her work has been featured on sites such as *Rogue's Portal*, *Geek League of America*, *Planet Zeist* and *The Geek Initiative*. A graduate of Smith College, she wrote her senior thesis, *The Surviving Superheroines*, with Professor N. C. Christopher Couch. A co-editor at Density Media, and a motivating force behind the Zine Games movement, she has written and created a variety of RPGs. You can find her work at [elliehillis.com](http://elliehillis.com).

**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 fills up her spare time by having far too many hobbies, including theater, singing and playing music, cooking, square dancing and various forms of writing. She also occasionally blogs at [asinclinationleadsme.wordpress.com](http://asinclinationleadsme.wordpress.com), usually about various bits of pop culture.

**JAMES HINSEY** is a lifelong lover of science fiction, fantasy, books, movies, TV shows, anime, '80s music, women, root beer, chocolate, Hawaii, Japan and family. He is half-Japanese, a reader, Potterhead, Trekker, Browncoat, Costumer, book-collector, model-maker, videographer, con-goer, RISFC member, *Sci-Fi Journal* co-host, Psi Upsilon brother, RPI alum, former naval officer, brother, son, uncle, husband and father of two young women. He is currently Arisia '17 Masquerade Director. SamuraiX47.

**STEVEN HIRSCH** has a doctorate in physical therapy. He has been training with swords since 2006 and unarmed martial arts since 1998, first with the Higgins and now teaching at his own school, Athena School of Arms. Steven is also a professional strength coach focusing on performance for combat sports and martial artists, his business is Fight with All Your Strength.

**CATE HIRSCHBIEL** is the host of the *Shakesplaining* podcast. She 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 *Game of Thrones*, *Outlander*, Shakespeare, superheroes, and the future of libraries. She also plays lots of games. In her professional capacity she promotes the use of the college library by hanging posters and giving away candy.

### MERAV HOFFMAN

**ANASTASIA HOLT** I have been sewing for 15 years, I have been competing and costuming for about 9 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 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.

**ARIELA HOUSMAN** works in tech by day and moonlights as a professional calligrapher and scribe. In 2016 she founded Geek Calligraphy to bring her day job and night jobs together. A geek of many flavors, Ariela consumes SFF in most media, including novels, comics, TV, and movies. She also enjoys tabletop games, costuming,

swing dancing, smashing the kyriarchy, and drinking tea.

**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. For more of the Diana Experience, follow her on Twitter at [@dromeda](https://twitter.com/dromeda). She makes no guarantees about quality.

### WALTER H. HUNT

### FELICITAS IVEY

**ALEXANDER JABLOKOV's** most recent published story was "How Sere Picked Up Her Laundry," the first of a series. His most recent novel is *Brain Thief*, a fast-paced AI-hunting adventure, now out in paperback. His most recent story, "The Return of Black Murray" will appear in *Asimov's*. He is the author of five other novels, including *Carve the Sky*, *Nimbus*, and *Deepdrive*, and a number of short stories. He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**COLIN JANSON** has been an anime and manga fan since the halycon days when *Gundam Wing* was airing on Toonami. He reads a whole bunch of manga and has a Crunchyroll subscription, so he's about as qualified as you, probably.

**VICTORIA JANSSEN** reviews for *Publishers Weekly*. Her last novel, *The Duke and the Pirate Queen*, is fantasy erotica from Harlequin (2010). "Cinema Fantastique" appears in *Best Lesbian Erotica of the Year, Volume 2*. For a full publications list, visit [victoriajanssen.com](http://victoriajanssen.com). Other interests include fan fiction, fan studies, comics, and fighting the patriarchy. She's on Twitter @ [victoriajanssen](https://twitter.com/victoriajanssen).

**KRISTIN JANZ** was born in Vancouver, Canada, and has 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 the 2016 anthology *Mysterion: Rediscovering the Mysteries of the Christian Faith* — stories that engage meaningfully with Christianity from a variety of perspectives.

## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

**ALEX JARVIS** is a meat popsicle.

**ALIZA JASMINE**

**CLAYTON JENNINGS**

**FREDERIC JENNINGS**

**EMPEROR JOEY-1** is a writer, cartoonist, beauty contest champion, and the part time party time Emperor of the United States of America.

**LENORE JEAN JONES** is a mostly-retired tax accountant who lives near NYC with one cousin and three cats. She has fond memories of living in the Boston area during part of her childhood. Lenore has worked Registration, Finance, or Access at many years of Worldcons, ran Registration at WisCon for seven years, and works Registration at Arisia at the restful minion level. She hears much better when she can see your face, is grateful for competent microphone use, and ecstatic when events are live captioned.

**JULIET KAHN** has been covering comics professionally for three years, primarily for *Comics Alliance* and *Publishers Weekly*. Her first graphic novel, *Fabiola & Ylini*, will be published by Oni Press in 2019. She is also an employee of Hub Comics in Somerville's Union Square.

**KATE KAYNAK** was born and raised in New Jersey, but she managed to escape. After serving a five-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 *Ganzfield* series. She now facilitates leadership programs with The Jennings Group.

**MEGAN KEARNS** is a film critic and the Managing Editor of *Bitch Flicks*. 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 feminist vegan and a life-long sci-fi fan.

**KEFFY R.M. KEHRLI** is a science fiction writer and editor. He runs the LGBTQ short fiction and poetry magazine *GlitterShip*, which can be found at [www.glittership.com](http://www.glittership.com). His own fiction has appeared in *Lightspeed*, *Apex Magazine* and *Uncanny* among others. He is currently located underneath several dogs on Long Island while working on a PhD in genetics. He can be found blogging at [keffy.com](http://keffy.com) and tweeting as @Keffy.

**JEFF KELLER** is a Boston-area song session leader, chantey singer, and occasional filker who has been working to expand, enrich, and revitalize Music Track since Arisia 2012. He's also a vintage dancer, the founder of the local vintage dance band (the *Ad Hoc Waltz and Quadrille Band*), and has done time as a member of the Arisia technical crew and as Music Track Manager as well as creating and running the Minstrel Program.

**RACHEL KENLEY** is a storyteller, muse and pleasure researcher. She loves retail therapy, anything to do with the movie *The Wizard of Oz*, and inspiring others to look into their own stories to find what they desire most. She is the author of several novels, most recently the *Melusine's Daughters* mermaid trilogy. She is also the co-host of *Dragons, Unicorns, and Other Creative Creatures* on YouTube (and NH cable TV) and can be found online at [www.rachelkenley.net](http://www.rachelkenley.net).

**PAUL KENWORTHY** is a military historian and re-enactor with special expertise in late medieval and renaissance polearm combat including armored combat. He was one of the co-founders of the Higgins Armory Sword Guild, a group that interprets historical fencing texts. In the summer he is a National Park Service Ranger at a 17th century historical site and in the winter he teaches at Worcester State University. He relaxes by practicing kyudo, traditional Japanese archery.

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 chantey 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."

Dr. **ROY 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.

**ANDREW KILGORE**

**DANIEL M. KIMMEL** is a veteran film critic and author of Hugo finalist *Jar Jar Binks Must Die*. His latest book is *Time on My Hands: My Misadventures in Time Travel*. He is moderator of the popular Movie Year in Review panel. His reviews can be found at [NorthShoreMovies.net](http://NorthShoreMovies.net) and *Space and Time* magazine.

Born in 1967, **CATT KINGSGRAVE-ERNSTEIN** has not yet managed to shuffle off the mortal coil, though not for want of trying, apparently. She writes (fiction, music, poetry, recipes, and the occasional political rant), draws, paints, sings, dances, cooks, builds and repairs houses, and occasionally makes an outright fool of herself when confronted with her intellectual heroes. She also has Opinions. No, wait! Don't run!

**KEN KINGSGRAVE-ERNSTEIN** is by day is a systems engineer with a strong problem-solving background. At night, on the weekends, and especially at conventions,



## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

he is a photographer, costumer, crafter, kinkster, and occasional stage technician.

**KIRKETTE** is a hobbyist cosplayer and part-time human being based out of Boston, Massachusetts. She enjoys reading frankly ludicrous amounts of fanfiction and falling asleep every night on silk sheets in a pile of dogs. Kirkette thinks that *Batman Forever* is the best Batman movie of all time and she will fight anyone to defend this conviction.

**JOHNNA Y. KLUKAS** After a ten-year career in the defense and high-tech industries, Johnna left the engineering world to become a full-time artist and woodworker. She was the Artist Guest of Honor at Arisia 2016.

### LAUREN KNOWLES

**KNTRL** brings a futuristic soundscape to the dance music scene! KNTRL mixes and blends some of the best techno, house, and electronic music from classics to the hits of tomorrow. Their goal is to provide an environment centered around the people

and to provide a positive atmosphere that is both friendly and welcoming to all. They want you to come join their musical family and enjoy the nights with some of the best music, friends, and vibes around.

**ASHER KORY** is a former literary agent turned software developer. They are a homebrewer, costumer, muay thai enthusiast, and they are a member of the 501st Legion and Rebel Legion Star Wars costuming organizations. They play roller derby as Jedi Mind Trix for the Long Island Roller Rebels.

**SIOBAN KRZYWICKI** I've had my first short story published in the *Hidden Youth* anthology. I've been helping run Readercon for 5 years in various roles and am the conchair for 2018.

Better known as a ukulele-slinging singer-songwriter and bandleader, **AMY KUCHARIK** has been a sought-after DJ for swing and blues dance events on the local and national scene since around 2010. She

can be found frequently at Blues Union on Thursday nights, behind the DJ booth or on the dance floor, and has DJed for dancers from Burlington, VT to Dallas, TX. She obsesses over collecting early 20th century blues & jazz, along with musical instruments, art supplies, books, and cosplay pieces.

### JASON KUEHL

**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's newest novel, *Cadaver & Queen*, a feminist Frankenstein-meets-*Grey's Anatomy* tale, will be published by Harlequin Teen in February of 2018. A former editor at Vertigo/DC Comics, she recently founded and edits Liminal Comics, an imprint of Brain Mill Press.

### ADRIA KYNE



Art by Iain Clark

**Guests of Honour**  
Jocelyn Bell Burnell  
Ginjer Buchanan  
Mary & Bill Burns  
Diane Duane  
Steve Jackson  
Ian McDonald

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## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

**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. When not doing that, he can 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 [www.marnen.org](http://www.marnen.org)!

**EMILY LAM** is a whimsical wanderer. Currently, she is pursuing a PhD in electrical engineering. Her interests are ever-changing but they currently include climbing, biking, and running — a.k.a. avoiding screens — and not quite fantastical or science fiction related. Oops. Current book bag book: *The Wise Man's Fear*; lab desk book: *Norse Mythology*; bedside book: *The Strange Case of the Alchemist's Daughter*.

**DAVID LAROCHELLE** has been trained as both a computer scientist and social scientist and works to understand the world using both data analysis and social theory. His involvement with fandom began when he joined the William & Mary Science Fiction and Fantasy Club (SKIFFY). He served as vice president and was named senator for life upon graduation.

### CODY LAZRI

**CASSANDRA LEASE** is a Boston native and lifelong geek who writes on AO3 as Themiscyra, cosplays as Amazon Pink, and sculpts handmade clay charms under the brand Cassandra's Strange Charms. 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.

### JOHN LECHNER

**L.B. 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.

**GENEVIEVE LEONARD** is a New York-based contemporary artist and educator. She had the privilege to be associate director of Digital Art Programs (Visual Effects / Motion Graphics, Film, Animation) and department chair of Digital Filmmaking at the Art Institutes. She is an active member of ASIFA East and Women in Animation and has since moved to the New York area, where she is creating independent short films. Genevieve continues to be a mentor by teaching 3D animation and digital production at Pratt Institute.

### RYAN LEONARD

**DAVID LEUNG** is the president of Boston Jedi, a lightsaber stage combat troupe. Dave draws on his background in competitive ballroom dancing and teaching karate to motivate and refine choreography.

**JET LEVY** has sought to bring the worlds and cultures that have surrounded her together in explosions of color and juxtapositions of texture. Her work can be found splashing across the stage, perched upon the page, blasted through comic books, woven in the fiber arts, breathing new life into up-cycled sustainable art installations, punctuating pop-up funnies, and clarifying educational notation in morphologically descriptive diagrams. She is an activist, educator, and organizer.

**MEGAN LEWIS** is a librarian/archivist in a museum and thus has many books. She has a great fondness for biographical dictionaries. As a crocheter, she has participated in several collaborative projects. Megan has attended Arisia for over a decade and works Art Show (come buy some art!)

**OLIVIA LI** is a comics artist and editor based in New York City. Most recently, her work has been published in *Dirty Diamonds* #8: *Sex* (Sept 2017) and *New Frontiers* (July 2017). She was head editor of two Boston Comics Roundtable anthologies, *Spellbound*

*Vol. 1* and *Boundless Vol. 1*. Olivia is the co-director of Robot Camp, a new comics collective and publisher. Her favorite stories are about girls with magic and robots with feelings, and vice versa.

**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 and editor emeritus of *Space and Time Magazine*; author of several novels and scores of short stories; freelance editor; licensed New York City tour guide; and front man for Saboteur Tiger blues band. His latest story will appear in the anthology *Baker Street Irregulars II*.

### ADAM LIPKIN

### JESI LIPP

**D. LITTLE** has been a teacher for nearly twenty years at home and abroad, a sci-fi and fantasy enthusiast whose interests crisscross all sorts of fandoms, and a lifetime dabbler in various arts and crafts. Teaching and learning is her lifeblood and she uses her love of language, culture, art, science and physical movement to spark students' curiosity, imaginations, hopes and dreams. As a Teacher-Monk-Warrior she is currently focused on becoming a master craft foam alchemist with a focus in mask design.

**MRS. HAWKING, LADIES CHAMPION OF LONDON** (a.k.a. Chameleon's Dish) is committed to producing low-cost, high-quality performances, with a focus on creative vision and excellence in acting. Our core consists of a multi-talented group of writers, directors, and performance and visual artists, whose skills combine to create productions that are provocative on artistic and conceptual levels. We are particularly invested in bringing our Shakespearean training and historical interests to bear upon new and relevant topics, through both original pieces and bold re-interpretations of classic works from a socially conscious perspective. [www.mrshawking.com](http://www.mrshawking.com)

**BHADRIKA LOVE** What I am: A psych nurse. A psych NP, even. Short, pink, bi, cis. What I do: Knit. And write. Teach. Play games. But mostly knit. And bake bread. What I have: Too many pets. Also chickens.



## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

Lots of boots. Issues. Way too much yarn. A plan. What I want: Happy, strong offspring. Cinnamon. Hugs. Silliness. What I need: To look forward, not back. Patience.

**MIKE LUOMA** writes and publishes science fiction and comic books, produces the *Glow-in-the-Dark Radio* podcast, and is music director and midday host on The Point: Vermont's Independent Radio Network. His *Vatican Assassin* introduced BC, a killer for the New Catholic Church whose story unfolds in *Vatican Ambassador* and *Vatican Abdicator*. He now writes the *Adventures of Alibi Jones*, including the latest novel, *Alibi Jones and The Hornet's Nest*. Info at [mikeluoma.com](http://mikeluoma.com) and [glowinthedarkradio.com](http://glowinthedarkradio.com).

**QUILL SHIV** is the pseudonymous name for Corinne Luz, an artist, writer, and film podcaster living in Salem, MA. Her fiction has appeared in the anthologies *Haikus for Lovers* (ed. Laura Roberts) and *Choose Wisely: 35 Women Up to No Good* (eds H. L. Nelson and Joanne Merriam). She can be heard on the podcast *CinemaSpection* ([www.cinemaspection.com](http://www.cinemaspection.com)) and contacted on Twitter @WithSharpThings. More information about her writing and art can be found at [www.madewithsharpthings.com](http://www.madewithsharpthings.com).

**MUSE EN LYSTRALA** is a classically trained singer, instrumentalist, and composer. She is ensemble director of the classical music ensemble Geek Musica, which performs video game and film music. She performs as Sirenne, a solo darkwave and EBM project, and serves as lead singer and programmer for symphonic metal band Crown of Melusine. Muse runs the Pagan sacred music project and educational channel Umbra Oceania, and is also a model, author, and photographer. She resides in upstate New York.

**MISS M.** Performer, storyteller, costumer, author ([minamurray.com/shop](http://minamurray.com/shop)), blogger ([missminamurray.wordpress.com](http://missminamurray.wordpress.com)), a woman of few words.

**ROBERT B. FINEGOLD, M.D.** is a radiologist from Maine whose stories of science fiction, fantasy, and Yiddishkeit have appeared in *Galaxy's Edge* magazine, *Giganotosaurus*, and *CRES*, as well as the *Starlight*, *Mysterion*, *Robotica*, and

Neil Clarke's *More Human Than Human* anthologies. He is the assistant editor for myths, legends, and fairy tales at *Cosmic Roots and Eldritch Shores*.

**JAMES D. MACDONALD** is a science fiction and fantasy writer living in northern New England. When not writing novels or running as an EMT with the local ambulance squad, he blogs at *Absolute Write* ([absolutewrite.com](http://absolutewrite.com)) and does stage magic. His most recent publications — co-written with Debra Doyle — include the short stories "One Night in Bavaria" in *Conspiracy!*, from NESFA Press, and "Gertrude of Wyoming" in *Altered States of the Union* from Crazy 8 Press.

**GLENN MACWILLIAMS** Business director for the past twenty-plus years of The Tesseracte Players of Boston: New England's Premier Traveling Shadowcast, performing *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog* and others. Webpage: [tesseracte.com](http://tesseracte.com). Tesseracte is always available for charity and fund raising events. Glenn is the general manager of Magic Dragon Comics in Arlington MA, the place for new comics.

**ZOE MADONNA**

**MITTY MAGOO**

**BECCA MANDEL** is a healer-mage who spends her time prancing about, singing at the top of her lungs, and bending down to touch moss.

**JOY MARCHAND** lives and works in Salem, Massachusetts, where tragedy haunts the cemeteries, creatures of myth and legend hit you up for cash, and magic is for sale. Her short stories and poems have appeared in *Interzone*, *Talebones*, *Apex*, and *Goblin Fruit*, as well as various anthologies of science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Joy is on the editorial board of *Shimmer* magazine ([www.shimmerzine.com](http://www.shimmerzine.com)).

**ALEXAN MARDIGIAN**

**DAN "GRIM" MARSH** is a member of the Society of Creative Anachronism 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.

**NEIL MARSH**

**SHELLEY MARSH** Rocket scientist by day; cook, knitter, spinner, seamstress, actress, model, singer, aerialist, and weaver by night. Yes, she sleeps; she just has a messy house.

**B. DIANE MARTIN** began reading science fiction at age nine, and later that same year she asked for her first telescope. She has a law degree, is a founder of several companies, and has advised start-ups in software, gaming, holography, and other technology areas. Diane (a.k.a. She Who Must Be Obeyed) lives with her husband, David G. Shaw, and their son Miles (He Who Will Not Be Ignored) in a Somerville, MA, Victorian home filled with books, games, music, anime, and cookware.

**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 *In 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).

## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

**MARLIN MAY**

**NORA MAYNARD**

**DAN MAZUR**

**ELIZABETH MCCARTY** I am a sci-fi mom, feminist, atheist, and liberal fan. I was a member of the SCA and then became an online gamer where I worked with Keeg.com and GameSpy (as BetaStormOSKI) while playing *Quake*, *Team Fortress* and *CTF*. Professionally, I've worked as a technology project manager and product marketing manager as well as a meeting/wedding planner. I now spend my time volunteering for conventions, mostly in promotions, and was the Marketing division head for two World Science Fiction conventions.

**DENNIS MCCUNNEY** has been reading SF&F for over fifty years, and participating in gatherings like Arisia for over forty. He's done most things you can do on a con, including being chair. He's been a graphic designer, ironworker, museum exhibit builder, solar energy analyst, junior financial analyst, and systems, network and telecom admin. These days he's involved in eBooks.

**JOHN G. MCDAID**'s fiction has appeared in *Asimov's* and *F&SF*. He attended Clarion in 1993 and sold his first story, the Sturgeon Award-winning "Jigoku no mokushiroku," in 1995. In 2017, he won both the topical and Iron Filker songwriting contests at the Ohio Valley Filk Fest. Since retiring from a corporate communications job, he divides his time among writing, music, and political activism in Rhode Island. For fiction and MP3s visit [harddeadlines.com](http://harddeadlines.com).

**MEG MCGINLEY** is a professional geek, in that order. By day, she dons business suits, fights for under-privileged children and fills brains of college students as a professor. By night she makes games with her business partners at Games by Play Date that focus on fun and social justice. One of her hobbies is high-fiving strangers. Help a nerd out!

**JAMES MEICKLE** has a day job writing automation software and provisioning cloud infrastructure, making him more or less a cyberpunk plumber. His less-than-ample free time goes into supporting professional education in technology through speaking

at conferences, teaching programming courses, and organizing a yearly professional unconference. Other interests of note include queer politics, political science, permadeath games, cooking, non-monogamy, co-op living, and Satanism.

**MICHAEL MEISSNER** Professionally, I am a computer programmer and I work on enhancing the Gnu compiler collection. As a hobby, I am into digital photography, and I've been the official photographer for some of the small renaissance faires in the area. Around 2010 I started thinking about how to disguise my cameras when at faire. Around the same time, I discovered steampunk, and I have made many variations of steampunk and dieselpunk cameras, incorporating my current digital cameras into my various props.

**PENNY MESSIER**

**SAMARA METZLER** Local teacher, performer and event producer.

**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 has had several pieces printed in the local Jewish paper, some of them even relating to SF/F, and some of them even paying; he is currently in school for a slight change in his career. He once turned the tap dance into his crusade, and enjoys proselytizing the uninitiated into the worlds of assorted geekery. (Or, at least getting them to come 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.

**MINDY**

**TROY MINKOWSKY** is a published comic book writer, stand-up comedian, and director. The pilot for his webseries *Superlife* can be viewed on Youtube. He is currently working on the short film *The Garden*.

**HILLARY MONAHAN**

**KEN MONDSCHNEIN** is a PhD in medieval history, college professor, and author, as well as (fittingly for a historian of the Middle Ages and Renaissance) a fencing master and joustier.

**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 MOREHOUSE**

**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](http://tashari.org).

**AMY J. MURPHY** is not a Jedi. (Although she's married to this guy that claims to be one.) But, she *is* a fantastic liar. She discovered this power at an early age and wields it for good instead of evil, crafting books with kickass heroines. Two of her novels were Dragon Awards finalists for Best Military Science Fiction Novel, and she is a Kindle Book Awards finalist. She's a SFWA member and dwells in Vermont with the aforementioned alleged Jedi and two dogs. Visit her at [www.amyjmurphy.com](http://www.amyjmurphy.com).

**MADDY MYERS** reports on competitive video games for *Kotaku* and *Deadspin*. She co-hosts a podcast about the X-Men called *The Mutant Ages*, as well as a movie review show called *Let's Watch Two Movies*. She has been a journalist for ten years, during which time she has worked for *The Mary Sue*, *Paste Magazine*, and the *Boston Phoenix*, and freelanced for outlets like *Offworld*, *Bloomberg* and *MIT Technology Review*. She also writes synthpop music under the moniker MIDI Myers ([midimyrs.com](http://midimyrs.com)).



## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

**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*.

**KATE NEPVEU** (pronounced "NEHV-you", the "p" is silent) is a reader, fan, and reviewer. She was born in South Korea, grew up in Massachusetts, and now lives in upstate New York. There, she practices law, is raising a family, and (in her copious free time) is secretary/treasurer of Con or Bust, which helps fans of color/non-white fans attend SF/F cons, and occasionally blogs for Tor.com. She's got an overdeveloped sense of responsibility. It's going to get her into trouble someday.

**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.

**JOSHUA A.C. NEWMAN** is the publisher of the literary SF roleplaying games, *Shock: Social Science Fiction* and *Shock: Human Contact*, as well as *Mobile Frame Zero*, the tabletop wargame of tiny giant LEGO robots. He is an avid proponent of independent media, and produces his own Patreon-funded speculative fiction on his blog, *xenoglyph*, visible at [glyphpress.com](http://glyphpress.com).

**BRENDA NOISEUX** Sci-fi geek, community builder and writer for *Women Write About Comics*. Using my superhero powers for the good of all kind.

**ABBY NOYCE** is a cognitive neuroscientist, a knitter, and a parent.

**ANNE 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 to the work of art, writing, teaching, and mothering.

**ELIZABETH O'MALLEY** is part of [FanCons.com/AnimeCons.com](http://FanCons.com/AnimeCons.com), the leading web site dedicated to news and information about conventions, contributing to both their website and weekly podcast, *AnimeCons TV*. She is also the past vice president of the Northern Lights chapter of the International Costumers Guild.

**JOHN O'NEIL**

**A.J. ODASSO's** poetry has appeared in an eclectic array of publications. Her debut collection, *Lost Books* (Flipped Eye Publishing), was nominated for the 2010 London New Poetry Award and was also a finalist for the 2010/2011 People's Book Prize. Her second collection with Flipped Eye, *The Dishonesty of Dreams*, was released in 2014; her third-collection manuscript, *Things Being What They Are*, was shortlisted for the 2017 Sexton Prize. She serves as senior poetry editor at *Strange Horizons*.

**KAT TANAKA OKOPNIK** 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](http://shadesbetween.com).

**JENNIFER OLD-D'ENTREMONT** is a hobbyist costumer who enjoys the study and recreation of historical and ethnic dress. She works as a medical lab technologist to pay for this expensive hobby. Her soap box is empowering creative expression through costuming regardless of perceived limitations, as well as making the hobby accessible to all. She is a compulsive organizer and involves herself with conventions at all levels. Jennifer is the president of the Kansas City Costumers' Guild.

**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

Red Box at age nine, he's played in dozens of worlds and systems, including GM-ing 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*.

**KEN OLUM** is a research professor in the Tufts Institute of Cosmology, where he studies cosmic strings, the possibility of time travel in general relativity, and philosophical issues in cosmology. He lives in Sharon, MA with his partners, Valerie White and Judy Anderson, and his children, Jocelyn and Perry.

**JACQUELINE ORTEGA**

**KEVIN OSBORN**

**MARK OSHIRO** is the Hugo-nominated writer of the online *Mark Does Stuff* universe (*Mark Reads* and *Mark Watches*), where he analyzes book and television series unspoiled. He was the nonfiction editor of *Queers Destroy Science Fiction!* and the co-editor of *Speculative Fiction 2015*. He is the president of the Con or Bust board of directors and is usually busy trying to fulfill his lifelong goal to pet every dog in the world. His YA contemporary debut, *Anger Is A Gift*, is out May 22, 2018 with Tor Teen.

**DR. 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.

**RYAN PAGELLA** is the director of Atomic Blue Productions. He works in film, photography, podcasting, horror and special effects make-up. He has been working in the media industry for 13 years. Ryan co-hosts an X-Men podcast with Maddy Myers called *The Mutant Ages*. To find more of his work, visit him on Twitter @ryanpagella or Instagram @ryan.pagella. Visit his website at [www.atomicblueproductions.com](http://www.atomicblueproductions.com)

**SUZANNE PALMER** is a SF/F author who is a regular contributor to *Asimov's*. She won the *Asimov's* Reader Award for Best Novella

## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

of 2016, the AnLab (*Analog Magazine*) Reader Award for Best Novelette of 2016, and was a finalist for both the Theodore Sturgeon and Eugie Foster Memorial Awards for short fiction. Her first novel is forthcoming from DAW in 2019.

**HANNAH PANEK** co-hosts the *Game of Thrones/A Song of Ice and Fire* podcast *Game of Owns*. She lives in Washington DC, loves the wizard rock band Harry and the Potters, and rooibos tea.

### RICHARD PARKER

**ELAINE PASCALE** has been writing her entire life. Her writing has been published in magazines and anthologies. She is the author of the soon-to-be-released *Blood Lights* and *If Nothing Else, Eve, We've Enjoyed the Fruit*. Elaine enjoys a robust full moon, chocolate, and collecting cats. Find out more at [elainepascale.com](http://elainepascale.com), on Twitter @doclaney, or at [www.facebook.com/elaine.pascale](http://www.facebook.com/elaine.pascale).

**JENNIFER PELLAND** is a science fiction author-turned-bellydancer. For more, visit [www.jenniferpelland.com](http://www.jenniferpelland.com) or [www.tassellations.com](http://www.tassellations.com)

**KRIS PELLETIER** is a mechanical engineer who got into college with an essay about how she wanted to be B'Elanna Torres growing up and now designs military equipment — not quite a starship, but we're working on it. Her fandom experience spans the gamut from skulking around on Livejournal, attending/volunteering at cons, and being a lead staff member and editor for a multi-fandom podcast. She loves to work with kids, especially when it comes to fostering an appreciation for the STEM disciplines.

### MELISSA PERREIRA-ANDREWS

**LEIGH PERRY** writes the *Family Skeleton* mysteries featuring adjunct English professor Georgia Thackery and her best friend, an ambulatory skeleton named Sid. *The Skeleton Paints a Picture* is the latest. As Toni L.P. Kelner, she's the co-editor of paranormal anthologies with Charlaire Harris; the author of eleven mystery novels; and an Agatha Award winner and multiple award nominee for short fiction. She and

her husband, daughters, and guinea pig live north of Boston.

**ISRAEL PESKOWITZ** (Izzy) is a professional photographer, proficient plumber, a novice community activist, and amateur fan.

**CHRIS PHILBROOK** is the author of eight *Adrian's Undead Diary* novels, three in *The Reemergence*, and three dark fantasy *Kinless Trilogy* novels set in the world of Elmoryn. He has years of experience in game development, editing, and has written for many game design companies. He's edited two anthologies, and has many short stories and novellas published. He has business and psychology degrees. Chris, his wife, daughter, and one on the way call New Hampshire home.

Science fiction & fantasy editor **DIANA PHO** (Tor Books) has worked for ten years in the publishing industry. Authors she has worked with include Alex Bledsoe, P. Djeli Clark, A.J. Hartley, Margaret Killjoy, Lettie Prell, Lara Elena Donnelly, Thoraiya Dyer, Robyn Bennis, and Bobby Sun. She is also involved with Robert Jordan's *The Wheel of Time* and George R. R. Martin's *Wild Cards* universes.

**SAMELA ST. PIERRE** I began practicing yoga in 2005, when I was fourteen years old. I earned my 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training certification from the Kripalu School of Yoga and have since completed One Voice YTT and Divine Sleep Yoga Nidra teacher trainings. My intention for all of my classes is to be a clearing for individuals to discover what yoga can offer them in their lives, and I want the yoga mat to be a safe place for students to work towards becoming fully self-expressed.

Founded in 2005 and based in the Boston area, the **POST-MERIDIAN RADIO PLAYERS** are a group of actors, writers, FoleyFX artists, composers, sound designers and other interested people dedicated to the preservation of radio drama and the development of audio theater as unique art forms. They offer live performances and studio productions of both classic tales from the Golden Age of Radio and original works by new and experienced writers, with a special emphasis on science-fiction, fantasy,

and horror, and have been performing at Arisia since 2006. [www.pmrp.org](http://www.pmrp.org)

### KELLIAN PLETCHER

**STEVE 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 ND and adjunct professor of biology at Molloy College and Touro College. He is a recipient of NYANP's Physician of the Year award. He is a fan of science fiction and enjoys discussing biological topics, and many other topics both science- and non-science-related. He spent ten years as the New York delegate to the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians and six years as a board member of the NYANP. He is involved in acting/ shadowcasting, EMS, alt-lifestyles, gaming, and more.

**ANTONIA PUGLIESE** is 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.

**JULIA PUGLIESE** is a part-time superhero and a part-time magical girl.

**KAREN PURCELL, DVM** (a.k.a. Dr. Karen) is currently practicing veterinary medicine in North Carolina. In her spare time (hah!), Dr. Karen spent many years wearing various hats at Arisia. She has also helped on various Worldcons and costuming endeavors. She belongs to the Northern Lights Costumers guild and The Greater Columbia Fantasy Costumer's Guild. She has been known to belly dance now and then.

**TORI QUEENO** is the founder and president of the Boston Whovians, a Boston-based *Doctor Who* fangroup boasting over 1,600 members that hosts meetups around the New England area. Tori is a 25-year-old "real adult" aspiring to write, teach literature, and costume for a living. Tori is currently in the process of pursuing an MFA in creative non-fiction and works



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## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

frantically to make the Boston Whovians an entity of somewhat-organized chaos with love and support from a boyfriend, hedgehog, and cat.

### DANIEL RAINE

**RICHARD RALSTON** has been a fan of science fiction and anime since the late '60s. Rick has been staffing conventions for the past fifteen 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.

**BRUCE RANDALL** has been singing, teaching, and writing shape-note music for forty years; his composition "Mount Desert" can be found in the 1991 revision of *The Sacred Harp*. He also performs medieval and Renaissance music, plays music for dances, and is the founder and director of The Boston West Gallery Quire, the only West Gallery group in the United States.

**VICTOR RAYMOND** PhD is a longtime SF/F reader and fan, and currently serves as a board member of the Carl Brandon Society and the Tekumel Foundation. In the past, he has served as president of the Interstitial Arts Foundation, chair of WisCon 28, co-chair of WisCon 33, and executive committee member of Minicon 28 and 33. A professional sociologist, he is a member of the arts and sciences faculty of Madison College in Madison, Wisconsin.

**SUZANNE REYNOLDS-ALPERT** writes science fiction, horror, dark fantasy, and the occasional poem. Her short fiction has been published in the anthologies *Killing It Softly* and *The Deep Dark Woods*. Her poetry has appeared in places such as the anthology *Wicked Witches, Tales of the Zombie War, The Wayfarer: A Journal of Contemplative Literature* and *Eternal Haunted Summer*. Suzanne is an editor, holds down a job in marketing, and has degrees in communication and sociology.

**MARK W. RICHARDS** Fan, SMOF, and 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 and staff for events and served on club boards, both fannish & kink. My latest is a new convention, HELIOSphere,

which I chaired last year. Equally comfortable discussing literary SF and fantasy, fanzines, kink, and sexual politics, preferably over a couple of pints, but I've enjoyed the experience of doing so in front of an audience at Arisia.

**JULIA RIOS** is a writer, editor, podcaster, and narrator. Currently the fiction editor for *Fireside Magazine*, she won the Hugo award in 2017 as poetry and reprint editor for *Uncanny Magazine*, and was a Hugo finalist as a senior fiction editor for *Strange Horizons*. She is a co-host of *The Skiffy and Fanty Show*, a general SF discussion podcast, and *Walkthrough*, a discussion of exercise and geekery with Amal El-Mohtar and Layla Al-Bedawi.

### SANTIAGO RIVAS

**LEE 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, enjoys promoting body positivity throughout the cosplay community, and is involved in various LBGQT cosplay groups. In their spare time they volunteer as a foster home for felines.

**PHOEBE ROBERTS** is the theater artist and dramatic writer who created the *Mrs. Hawking* shows, a dramatic series of steampunk superhero stories that answer the question, "What if Sherlock Holmes were a lady Batman?" More information can be found on the project website, [www.mrshawking.com](http://www.mrshawking.com). Roberts's other work in theater and writing can be found at her personal site, [www.phoeberoberts.com](http://www.phoeberoberts.com).

A practicing massage therapist, herbalist, and mom, **NICOLE ROBINSON** has been enjoying Arisia for the past eight years. She's an expert at playing board and card games with children, enjoys tribal dancing, and has been known to make bad jokes.

**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 now helps with diversity work in the programming division. 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 her how!)

**NOEL ROSENBERG** has been running cons for more years than not. He has worked on several major regionals, as well as Gaylaxicon, a few gaming cons, and a couple of Worldcons. Arisia is his home convention. Proving he has no friends, he has worked on every Arisia since '91, filled almost every division head position at least once, held several officer positions in Arisia, Inc., and in a past life was the con chair. He also chaired the Arisia Hotel Search Committee, and has negotiated hotel contracts for a few cons.

**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 1960s. 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, Inc. from 1990-92 and president from 1992-94. He is a practicing attorney and expert in landlord-tenant law.

**ALEXANDRA ROWLAND** is a fantasy author, game monitor at an escape room company, and occasional bespoke seamstress under the stern supervision of her feline quality control manager. She attended Truman State University, where she studied world literature, mythology, and folklore. Look for her debut adult fantasy novel, *A Conspiracy of Truths*, available in fall of 2018 from Saga Press. (Twitter: @alexrowland)

### LAUREN M. ROY

**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, and turtles of the ninja variety. She can be heard as one quarter of the *Foxes in the Hen House* pop-culture round table

## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

podcast, and can be seen reprising her role as Captain Jane T. Kirk in the Post-Meridian Radio Players' production of *Gender-Swapped Star Trek*.

**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 managing director of the Post-Meridian Radio Players ([www.pmrp.org](http://www.pmrp.org)) and a co-host of *Foxes in the Hen House* ([www.soundcloud.com/foxesinthehenhouse](http://www.soundcloud.com/foxesinthehenhouse)), a geeky roundtable discussion podcast that's only partially an excuse to drink with friends. She's a writer, director, GM, chainmailer, and overall opinion-haver.

The Salem Light Infantry, an elite militia company from Salem, Massachusetts, adopted Zouave dress and drill in April, 1861. Like the original unit, the reconstructed **SALEM ZOUAVES** specialize in historically accurate Civil War-era precision manual-of-arms drill and the use of the bayonet, and add military swordplay to their repertoire. They wear historically accurate reproduction uniforms, made mostly by the individual unit members. Their other incarnation is as the Salem Trayned Band.

**CAROL SALEMI** has worked more than forty years in many aspects of costuming from creating and fabricating to teaching to judging and masquerade directing. She is a master costumer who enjoys new, fun, challenging techniques that keep it fresh. Her most recent work can be seen on TLC's *My Big Fat American Gypsy Wedding*. She's been a medical massage therapist for thirty 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!

**DIANNA SANCHEZ** is the not-so-secret identity of Jenise Aminoff, also known to her children as the Queen of Sarcasm.

Her middle-grade fantasy novel, *A Witch's Kitchen*, debuted September 2016 from Dreaming Robot Press. Her short fiction appears in the 2017 and 2018 *Young Explorers' Adventure Guides*. A Latina geek originally from New Mexico, she now lives in the Boston area with her husband and two daughters. Follow her on Facebook and at [www.diannasanchez.com](http://www.diannasanchez.com).

**VICTORIA SANDBROOK** is a fantasy writer, Viable Paradise graduate, and Boston Speculative Fiction Writing Group member. Her short fiction has appeared in *Shimmer*, *Cast of Wonders*, and *Swords & Steam Short Stories*. She is an avid hiker, sometimes knitter, long-form talker, and initiate baker. She spends most of her days wrangling a ferocious, destructive, jubilant tiny human. Victoria and her family live in Brockton, MA. She shares writerly nonsense at [victoriasandbrook.com](http://victoriasandbrook.com) and on Twitter at @vsandbrook.

**CAELYN 'INURASHII' SANDEL** is an experimental author born in the DC metro area and moved to Boston. Caelyn has been writing and running roleplaying games for more than fifteen years, but the past seven or so have been focused on interactive fiction in particular. She self-published the novel *Tales from the Securemarket* and released the games *The Skeleton Key of Ambady* and *Bloom*, and is currently a writer and designer for Evil Overlord Games's *Susurrus: Season of Tides* and Freehold Games's *Caves of Qud*.

### RACHEL SANDERSON

**LAUREN SARA** is an instructional designer, passionate performer, creator, and science geek. She grew up in New York, marinating in performing arts, then moved to Boston. She has vamped her vocals in choirs, cabarets, and musicals. Her past seven years have been dedicated to studying/performing belly dance (tribal/ improvisational), theatrical fusion, and sword. She is a founding member of the troupe Ki-ra Luna. She loves all things makeup, and is thrilled by weather, animals, space, and guts.

**SHARON SBARSKY** chaired Smofcon 15, Boskone 40 & 49, ran the Masquerade at Arisias and Sasquan, ran the Hugo ceremony at Renovation, and will co-chair

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 master's 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.

**BEN "BOOKS" SCHWARTZ** lies to children professionally. Mostly that's done at the LARPing summer camps they run and in the young adult stories they write. They're currently hard at work on Event Horizon, a sci-fi destination LARP for adults that runs each April. They also think you should send your children to LARP camp, whether at the Wayfinder Experience or elsewhere.

**MEREDITH SCHWARTZ**'s 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 both screenwriting and conrunning, but she is much better now. In her day job she edits a magazine about libraries, but she is here speaking only for herself.

**SCRATCH** played D&D from copies of Gygax's notes, went to his first con when he was eight, was in comics as a letterer, author, retailer, marketer, and publisher. He has a great love of history, is a lapsed member of the SCA and has performed at and organized renaissance faires. He's kinksmart, although that's really none of your business. A professional performer from age four, these days he is the impresario for The Boston BeauTease burlesque troupe, and owns the Thalia Theatre in Cambridge.

**JUDE SHABRY** (a.k.a. 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.



## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

**DAVID G. SHAW** is, in no particular order: aspie, atheist, blogger, cook, curmudgeon, foodie, geek, musician, parent, partner, reader, scientist, skeptic.

**CHRISTOPHER SHELDON-DANTE**

**YARON SHRAGAI**

**ALEX SHVARTSMAN** is a writer, translator, and game designer from Brooklyn, NY. More than 100 of his stories have appeared in *Nature*, *Galaxy's Edge*, *InterGalactic Medicine Show*, and many other magazines and anthologies. He won the 2014 WSFA Small Press Award for Short Fiction and was a two-time finalist for the Canopus Award for Excellence in Interstellar Fiction (2015 and 2017). He is the editor of the *Unidentified Funny Objects* annual humorous anthology series. His website is [www.alexshvartsman.com](http://www.alexshvartsman.com).

**RACHEL SILBER** is always happy to talk about complex systems, including safety of software-intensive technical systems (the day job), convention management (a strange but rewarding hobby), and the odd things that happen in our brains.

**HILDY SILVERMAN** is the publisher of *Space and Time*, a five-decade-old magazine featuring fantasy, horror, and science fiction ([www.spaceandtimemagazine.com](http://www.spaceandtimemagazine.com)). Her most recent fiction publications include, "The Great Chasm" (2016, co-authored w/David Silverman, *Altered States of the Union*, Hauman, ed.), "A Scandal in the Bloodline" (2017, *Baker Street Irregulars*, Ventrella & Maberry, eds.), and "Invasive Maneuvers" (2017, *Love, Murder and Mayhem*, Colchamiro, ed).

**EMILY SIMON**

**HANNAH SIMPSON** is an unabashed nerd, Red Sox fan, engineering grad, marathoner, public speaker, comedian, and snarky young Jewish girl describing herself as "now available in female." She spent eight years in Boston attending BU and working at Brandeis. You may have caught her as a panelist discussing life as a transgender woman live on MSNBC's *Melissa Harris-Perry Show* or FOX's *Good Day New York*. Find her writing on *Refinery29*, *The Advocate*, *Bustle*, and *Huffington Post*, plus

on Twitter as @hannsimp, on Instagram as @hsimpso and at [hannahsimpson.com](http://hannahsimpson.com).

**JILL R. PELAVIN SINGER** I'm a crafter, software engineer, sailor, baker, singer (vocalist)....I do a lot. I've been reading fantasy since I was introduced to it by *The Littlest Dragonboy* by Anne McCaffrey in middle school. And watching *Star Trek* since middle school. I live in the greater Camberville area with my fiancée, Baruch, and our cats.

**JAMILA SISCO** is an award-winning costumer with a specialization in anime, video game, and original costumes. She has worked on costumes for more than 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.

**ELSA SJUNNESON-HENRY**

**REBECCA SLITT** is the author of *Psy High* and an editor for Choice of Games, LLC, a company that produces 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 *Psy High 2: High Summer*, as well as *Dark College Years*, a Lovecraftian RPG about privilege and power at Yale.

**SARAH SMITH** writes books. (Published in 14 languages, *New York Times* Notable, prizewinning, all that.) She has an Edwardian mystery series (the Titanic book is being shopped) and is working on a 19th-century Brazilian fantasy with pirates and talking eagles. She has been to every single Arisia, starts thinking about Arisia around September, and her proudest Arisia moment was when John Scalzi licked her Kindle. Try her, you'll like her. [www.sarahsmith.com](http://www.sarahsmith.com), sarahwriter on Facebook and Twitter.

**KRIS "NCHANTER" SNYDER** 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 SF/F 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.

The **SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM (SCA)** is an international organization dedicated to researching and re-creating the arts, skills, and traditions of pre-17th-century Europe. The **RAPIERS** from the Barony of Carolingia (Boston's local chapter) practice the art of the duel and historical rapier play and techniques.

**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 fascinated by how technology influences the culture of our past, present, and future. She can most often be found in a ballgown dancing with the Commonwealth Vintage Dancers, or shooting with her stereoscope lens in historic cities worldwide. Her role model is Ms. Frizzle.

**IAN RANDAL STROCK** is the editor and publisher of Fantastic Books ([www.fantasticbooks.biz](http://www.fantasticbooks.biz)) and an author of science fiction and non-fiction. He has published three books on the presidency of the United States (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. [www.ianrandalstrock.com](http://www.ianrandalstrock.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 "Technopothesis" concerns art, ethics, synthetic biology, literary criticism and construction labor, among other things. The *Technopothesis* Youtube channel features long-form conversations

## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

with prominent scientists, novelists, philosophers and activists.

### MEG SWANTON

**SONYA TAAFFE**'s short fiction and poetry can be found most recently in the collection *Ghost Signs* (Aqueduct Press) and in the anthologies *Transcendent 2: The Year's Best Transgender Speculative Fiction*, *Broad Knowledge: 35 Women Up to No Good*, and *Heiresses of Russ 2016: The Year's Best Lesbian Speculative Fiction*. She reads dead languages for fun, edits living poets for *Strange Horizons*, and once named a Kuiper belt object. She lives in Somerville with her husband and two cats.

**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. This year she will launch a new urban fantasy series at Tor Books entitled *The Vanished Chronicles*. The first book in the series will be *Initiates of the Blood*.

### FREDERICK TERRASI

**THEATRE@FIRST** is an all-volunteer community theater based in Somerville, MA. Founded in 2003, we fill a vital niche in the vibrant Davis Square arts scene. We draw upon the talents and support of individuals and organizations throughout the community to provide opportunities for our participants and audiences to experience quality live theater in a variety of local venues. For more about our current and past productions, as well as volunteer opportunities, please see our website: [theatreatfirst.org](http://theatreatfirst.org).

**TIKVA (RAYCHO)** is attending her bazillionth Arisia, and her fourth as a panelist. She's a public health professional, disability activist, baseball addict, and member of a poly family/household. She hosts *Geek Love*, a weekly radio show on Boston Free Radio, which is kind of like Arisia except all year 'round. 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.

**DAN TOLAND** is a writer and podcaster who thought it would be a healthy and not at all dangerously insane idea to run Arisia's media track this year and plan a wedding at the same time. He lives in Boston with a woman of nearly limitless patience, 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.

**MIKE TOOLE** is the editor at large at *Anime News Network*, the internet's biggest English-language source for news, reviews, and info about anime and manga. He's also a producer at Discotek Media, a DVD/Blu-Ray publisher based in Florida. His latest Discotek project is the Captain Harlock origin film *Arcadia of My Youth*. Mike's also been an onscreen host for both *Anime News Network* and *Crunchyroll*, and will make his debut as a voice actor, playing the narrator on Discotek's new release of *Bananya!*

### 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 teach college-level anthropology and archaeology.

**DAMARIE AURORA UNDERHILL** is a music technologist, tinkerer, caffeine addict, and crafter. Lady Aurora Freyasdotir is the High Priestess of Coven of the Moonlit Merloun and has been a member of the Sacred Order of the Black Forest for over ten years. Overall, the identities are pretty compatible but sometimes all the names get confusing.

**HEATHER URBANSKI** holds a Master of Arts in writing and a PhD 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 supposed to be two completely different occupations before the sky fell in and 2017 introduced itself. 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* and *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. He's also on the board of directors at the Artisan's Asylum, a hacker/makerspace in Somerville, MA, and also on the board of directors of the Firefly Arts Collective. 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, wild fanboy, sometimes scholar/always student, agitator, bard-magus, and whatever else they comes 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.

## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

### CECILIA VILLERO

**THE VOX HUNTERS** (Armand Aromin & Benedict Gagliardi) are seekers and singers of old songs, tireless multi-instrumentalists, and a driving force of traditional folk music in Rhode Island. With fiddle, concertinas, banjo, and a pair of complementary voices, they present an exciting repertoire of driving dance tunes mixed with a delightfully eclectic selection of traditional songs. Touted as strong tradition-bearers in their generation, they treat the music as a communal good more than a profession.

**WILLIAM C. WALKER** is an inveterate gamer, reader, and writer. He is also a PhD candidate at Northeastern University in Law and Public Policy. His work is at the intersection of future energy solutions and governance. His first Arisia was in 2000, and he's happy to be coming back this year.

**JARED WALSKE** lives around Boston and spends his time obsessing over music, comics, movies, and just all sorts of weird forgotten cultural detritus. He occasionally writes essays and review for his blog, *The World That's Coming*, and is an occasional guest on the anime podcast *Dub Talk*. You can follow his ramblings at [worldthatscoming.blogspot.com](http://worldthatscoming.blogspot.com) and at [@Amondualulus](https://twitter.com/Amondualulus) on Twitter.

**T.X. WATSON** is a writer involved in the solarpunk community. They're currently in their final year at Hampshire College, where they're studying Memetic Engines of Anticapitalism. Watson can be found on Twitter, Tumblr, YouTube and Instagram as [txwatson](https://twitter.com/txwatson), and online at [txwatson.com](http://txwatson.com).

**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!

### SAM WEILER

**SUSAN WEINER** has been writing and running LARPs for 13 years, primarily as part of Alleged Entertainment. On the side, she teaches physiology, dates a bunch of people, studies social insect behavior, plays the violin and viola da gamba, writes songs, cooks weird, overly complicated meals, and

does a variety of other things in not nearly enough time.

**DAVID WEINGART** Fan, con runner, occasional songwriter, IT consultant, ham radio operator, traveler, runner, hiker, father of two Eagle Scouts, lover of peaty whiskies. Hates writing program bios.

**SYD WEINSTEIN** is a masquerade presentation judge at Arisia, Worldcons and regionals. Syd works with tech as video designer and video director for Arisia and Worldcons. He has been a mentor at the American Film Institute and has taught television production techniques to both children and adults. His current interests include renewable energy and electric vehicles.

**SARAH LYNN WEINTRAUB** is the books manager at Pandemonium Books and Games in Central Square, Cambridge. She is working on getting her master's in library science, when she is not trying to power her way through chronic illness. In her free time, she enjoys watching cheesy gay-coded sci-fi, reading science fiction and fantasy written by women, drinking tea, and annoying her cat. You can find her on twitter [@ruarealmonster](https://twitter.com/ruarealmonster).

**JESSE WERTHEIMER** is a dad, a dancer, a geek, an avid boardgamer and a programmer.

**MORVEN WESTFIELD** became fascinated by the unseen in her childhood, delighting in superstitions and ghost stories. Her short stories have appeared in multiple anthologies, and she regularly contributes articles on folklore and the supernatural to *The Witches Almanac*. Her two novels, *Darksome Thirst* and *The Old Power Returns*, combine vampires, witches, and computer geeks. Like many writers, she keeps a messy office and drinks way too much coffee. [www.morvenwestfield.com](http://www.morvenwestfield.com)

**ALAN WEXELBLAT** is a poly parent, 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 Assistant Division Head for Communications.

Besides attending cons, something she's done since her teen years, **MICHELLE WEXELBLAT** is a mother, wife, friend, extrovert, self-employed clinical social worker, and poi spinner. Her talents include writing poetry, prose, helping people heal from trauma, and explaining complex things in simple ways that make sense. She's getting back into writing through doing text-based RPGs but has been delayed by wanting to read all the books ever.

**HENRY M. WHITE** is a writer, LARPer, and storyteller. Recently finished an MFA in writing for children at Simmons College. Writes for and works with The Wayfinder Experience (a LARP camp in New York's Hudson River Valley), has short and flash fiction on [fistfulofwits.com](http://fistfulofwits.com), and is querying a middle-grade space adventure.

A Vermont-licensed lawyer, **VALERIE WHITE** is a sexual freedom activist and practicing polyamorist. She's executive director of the Sexual Freedom Legal Defense and Education Fund, on the advisory council of the Woodhull Freedom Foundation, on the coordinating council of Family Tree, and on the board of Unitarian Universalists for Polyamory Awareness. She speaks nationally on sex and the law.

**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.

**SCOTT WILHELM** is a licensed biology, physics, math, and general science teacher with more than ten 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.

**CONNIE WILKINS** (often writing as Sacchi Green) has published scores of short stories and edited eighteen anthologies, many in the lesbian erotica genre. Two are winners of Lambda Literary Awards and four have won Golden Crown Literary Awards.



## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D)

She's especially delighted to have brought together lesbian erotica and classical fantasy in her recent anthology *Witches, Princesses and Women at Arms: Erotic Lesbian Fairy Tales*. Next up will be her third gig as editor of *Best Lesbian Erotica of the Year*.

**W.B.J. WILLIAMS**, the author of *The Garden At The Roof Of The World*, 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.

### JASON WISER

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

**TRISHA J. WOOLDRIDGE** writes fiction, non-fiction, and poetry about bad-ass faeries, carnivorous horses, Tarot cards, vengeful spirits, as well as food, hay-eating horses, writer advice, and alcoholic spirits. As child-friendly T.J. Wooldridge, she's published poetry and three scary children's books. She's edited more than fifty novels and two anthologies. She has a very patient Husband-of-Awesome, a calico horse, a giant Bunny-of-Doom, and a bratty tabby cat. Join her adventures at [www.anovelfriend.com](http://www.anovelfriend.com).

**CAS WORMWOOD** is an artist, writer, aesthete, and absinthe enthusiast. Presently based out of Salem, MA, he runs the online curiosity shop, Wormwood & Gall, through which he purveys darkly elegant vintage apparel, decor, and jewelry.

### FRANK WU

**DOUGLAS WYNNE** wrote his first dark fantasy novel at the age of fifteen but has never found the courage to take it down from the attic and read it. After a long detour through rock bands and recording studios, he came full circle back to fiction writing and is recently the author of five novels: *The Devil of Echo Lake*, *Steel Breeze*, and the *SPECTRA Files* trilogy (*Red Equinox*, *Black January*, and *Cthulhu Blues*). He lives in Massachusetts with his wife and son and a houseful of animals.

### TOM WYSMULLER

**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, Red Sofa Literary. In his professional life, Keith is a consultant with the U.S. Department of Commerce and helps American companies sell products internationally.

**AIMEE YERMISH, PsyD** ([aimee@davincilearning.org](mailto:aimee@davincilearning.org)) is a clinical psychologist and educational therapist, offering a broad range of assessment, therapy, and consulting services, across the lifespan, for people who are gifted or twice-exceptional (gifted with disabilities). Her

former lives include molecular biologist, schoolteacher, black belt, and master assassin. She's still geeky. She enjoys music, crafts, photography, and being outdoors, and keeps busy managing her cats, kids, and husband.

**ELLIE YOUNGER** is a biomedical engineer by day. Her professional interests are in how technology improves health and is used to treat all kinds of medical conditions.

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. He is still associated with his former fan-participation video comedy project, *Eric in the Elevator*. He lives in Berkeley, California with his wife of more than a quarter-century, Beth, and their two cats, Patience and Fortitude.



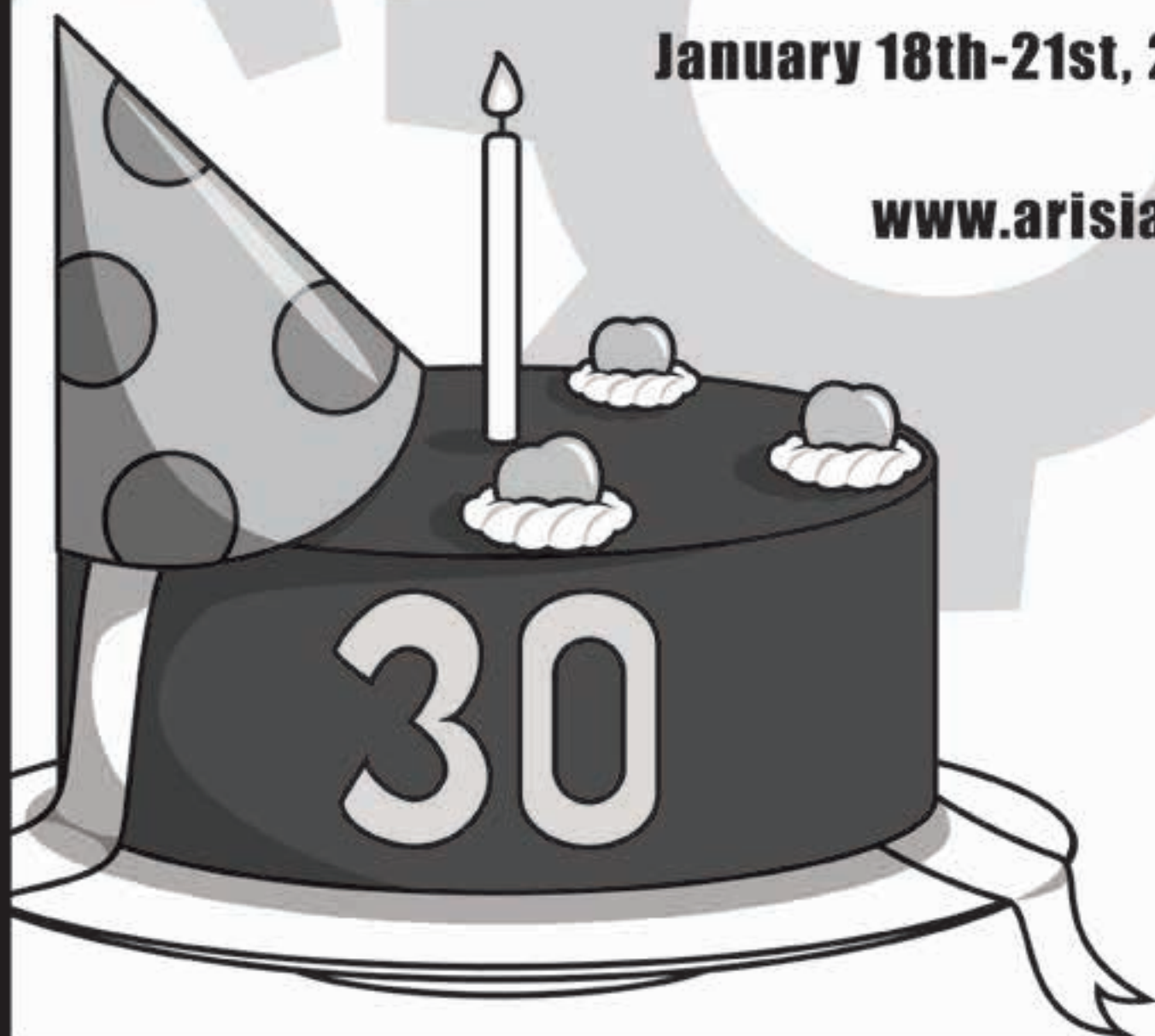
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Segaloff conducted exhaustive interviews with Ellison over the course of five years and also spoke with many of his friends and enemies in an effort to get inside the man and pin down the best-known "Harlan stories." Their wide-ranging discussions cover his bullied boyhood, his storied marriages, his fabled lawsuits, and his compulsive writing process. But it also delves into the man's deeply held principles, his fears, and the demons that have driven him all of his 83 (so far) years.

Along the way, the reader is treated to an analysis of the Connie Willis controversy, the infamous dead gopher story, the adventure of fandom, and the final word on *The Last Dangerous Visions*. What emerges is a rich portrait of a man who has spent his life doing battle with his times and himself. It's funny, wise, shocking, and—well, it's Harlan.

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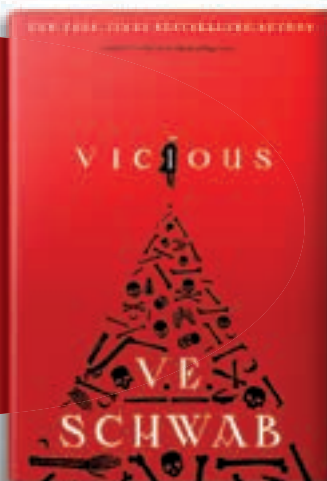


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