

MileHiCon 52 Virtual Program Book Regress Report



MILEHI
CON
52

Explanation & Apologia

This is not really the MileHiCon 52 program book, as that was not produced due to COVID-19 and the con being held online. However, it does contain much of the information that would have been in the program book as well as some material from after the convention. So it is more of a regress report... the second one I have done for MileHiCon. And it means there won't be a gap in your/my collection of program books. As always, expect the occasional typographical error, stray punctuation or misspelling. In this unusual year there will be omissions, things forgotten or not archived, as well as items other people might not have included if they had done the regress report. But I was the obstinate fan who was determined to do it, so that influenced it. I hope it brings back good memories of MileHiCon 52 for you. --Rose Beetem

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cover art by Alan Pollack, *The Book of Wars* (used for the convention t-shirt)

MHC 52 Convention Committee ... page 1

MileHiCon Through the Years ... pages 2-3

MHC 52 Guests of Honor ... pages 4-7

Artist GoH Alan Pollack

Author GoH Mur Lafferty

Author GoH Cory Doctorow

Author GoH Rebecca Roanhorse

Toastmaster Steve Rasnic Tem

Other Guests and Participants ... pages 7-17

Programming Schedule ... pages 17-24

Avistrum Programming ... page 25

Masquerade/Cosplay Contest ... pages 25-29

Ed Bryant Literacy Auction ... page 29

Art Show / Vendors Room ... page 29

Facebook Posts and Discord Excerpts ... pages 29-33

Pre and Post-con Writeups ... pages 34-38



MHC 52 Convention Committee

MileHiCon is always organized and run by a corps of unpaid volunteers. This year was more challenging than many as the decision to go virtual (instead of cancelling, as many cons did last year) was made after we were already some months into the usual planning process. Positions/staff in italics were greatly impacted when we chose to go virtual. Some were able to continue their position in a more limited virtual way, some shifted to other roles, and some went on hiatus for 2020. Additional expertise and personnel were needed to allow us to move the con into a virtual format and a number of con com members pivoted to that area, including serving as hosts for Zoom panels.

In the end it was imperfect—and so not the same as an in-person MileHiCon—but much better than not having one. Kudos to the entire committee and our stalwart attendees!

Chairperson Linda Nelson

Treasurer Mindy Elswick

Hotel Liaison Jessi Knoedler

Programming Director Meg Ward

Programming Assistant Rose Beetem

Virtual Masquerade/Cosplay Director Rose Beetem

Virtual Masquerade Tech Wizard CJ Ward

Active Track Coordinator Majel Lickiss

Video Program Coordinator Thor Thomas

Anime Program Coordinator Joel Berger

Gaming Program Coordinator Adam Rinehart

Co-directors of Avistrum Chad Patten, Cody Miller

Pre-Registration Coordinator Christine Childs

Guest Services Director Melanie Unruh

Operations/Security Director Malinda Tegen

Security Coordinator Alex Wilder

Authors Row & Fan Tables Coordinator Christine Childs

Vendors Room Directors Scott Clarizio and Jyn Clarizio

Volunteer Director Annabel Bugg

Assistant Volunteer Director Kat Beagles

Literacy Auction Coordinator Lorelei Suzanne

Art Show & Art Auction Director Machel Winblood-Baer

Auctioneer Michael Burgess

Publications Director Linda Nelson

Advertising & Marketing Coordinator Graham Dickson

Critter Crunch & Float-illa Director John Morse

Logistics Coordinator Matt Squire

Dock Master Bill Van Cleave

Green Room Coordinator Suzanne Van Cleave

Programming/Chat Room Monitors: Rose Beetem, Joel Berger, Christine Childs, Danyda Feldman, Andrea DeHart, Mindy Elswick, Bruce Kesler, Jessi Knoedler, Majel Lickiss, Chris Parks, Ben Payton, Adam Rinehart, Matthew Squire, Gabrielle Staben, Nate Tegen, Bill Van Cleave, Suzanne Van Cleave, Malinda Tegen, Melanie Unruh, Meg Ward, Alex Wilder

IT TEAM

Webmaster Brenda Dryburgh

Social Media Coordinator Andrea De Hart

IT Hardware Coordinator Joel Berger

Web Applications Coordinator Jyn Clarizio

Zoom Masters Arlen Feldman, Meg Ward

Note: This regress report is ©2020 Final Eyes Editing, with full distribution rights granted to MileHiCon. The copyright for all individual works of art or writing remain with the artist/writer. If you have information, images, amendments, etc., you would like to submit for possible addition, please contact me at rosebeetem@hotmail.com. Thank you!

MileHiCon Through the Years

GoH = Guest of Honor; TM = Toastmaster

MileHiCon 52 Virtual – Oct. 23-25, 2020

GoHs Cory Doctorow, Mur Lafferty, Rebecca Roanhorse;
Art GoH Alan Pollack; TM Steve Rasnic Tem
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 51 – Oct. 18-20, 2019

GoHs Marie Brennan, Angela Roquet; Art GoH Elizabeth Leggett;
TM Carol Berg
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 50 – Oct. 19-21, 2018

Returning GoHs: Ben Bova, Steven Brust, Barbara Hambly,
Jane Lindskold, Robert J. Sawyer, Michael Swanwick, Lawrence
Watt-Evans, Connie Willis
Returning Art GoHs: Michael Carroll, Liz Danforth, Shaenon Garrity,
Theresa Mather, Lubov Yegudin
Returning TMs: Mario Acevedo, Stephen Graham Jones, Chaz Kemp,
Wil McCarthy, Jeanne C. Stein, John L. Stith, James Van Pelt, Robert
Vardeman, Carrie Vaughn
Other returning GoHs: Ed Kramer (media GoH), KathE Walker (fan
GoH), Courtney Willis (co-Toastie)
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 49 – Oct. 27-29, 2017

GoHs Eric Flint & Jane Lindskold; Art GoH Carrie Anne Baade;
TM Jason Heller
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 48 – Oct 28-30, 2016

GoHs Kelly Armstrong, John Varley; Art GoH Julie Dillon;
TM Chaz Kemp
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 47 – Oct. 23-25, 2015

GoHs Kevin Hearne, Kristine Kathryn Rusch; Art GoH
Ursula Vernon; TM James Van Pelt
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 46 – Oct. 24-26, 2014

GoHs Daniel Abraham, Ty Franck, Michael Swanwick;
Art GoHs: Phil & Kaia Foglio; TM Jeanne C. Stein
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 45 – Oct. 18-20, 2013

GoHs Seanan McGuire & Catherynne Valente; Art GoH
Aaron Miller; TM Ian Tregillis
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 44 – Oct 19-21, 2012

GoHs Cherie Priest, CJ Henderson; Art GoH Stephen Hickman;
Special GoH Steven Brust; TM Stephen Graham Jones
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 43 – Oct. 21-23, 2011

GoHs Vernor Vinge, Glen Cook; Editor GoH Gardner Dozois;
Art GoH Theresa Mather; Music GoHs Pandora Celtica; TM Mario
Acevedo
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 42 – Oct. 22-24, 2010

GoHs Katherine Kurtz, Rachel Caine; Art GoH Donato Giancola;
TM Paolo Bacigalupi
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 41 – Oct. 23-25, 2009

GoHs Barbara Hambly, Nancy Kress; Music GoH Marc Gunn;
Art GoH John Picacio; TM Brandon Sanderson
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 40 – Oct. 24-26, 2008

GoHs Jim Butcher, Patricia Briggs, Tim Powers; Art GoH
Michael Carroll; TM Carrie Vaughn
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 39 – Oct. 26-29, 2007

GoHs David Weber, Chelsea Quinn Yarbro; Art GoH Frank Wu;
Media GoH David Hedison (Sat. only); TM Edward Bryant
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 38 – Oct. 27-29, 2006

GoHs Robert J. Sawyer, Judith & Garfield Reeves-Stevens;
Art GoH Alan M. Clark; TM Mark Ferrari
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 37 – Oct. 21-23, 2005

GoHs Alan Dean Foster, David Drake; Media GoH Kenneth J. Hall;
Art GoH David Mattingly; TM Connie Willis
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 36 – Oct. 22-24, 2004

GoHs Charles DeLint, Fred Saberhagen, Elizabeth Moon; Art GoH
Bob Eggleton; TM Robert Vardeman
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 35 – Oct. 23-24, 2003

GoHs Barry Longyear, Christopher Stasheff; Web Comic GoH
Shaenon Garrity; Art GoH Lubov; TM Walter Jon Williams
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 34 – Oct. 18-20, 2002

GoHs Nichelle Nichols, Jack McDevitt, Christie Golden; Art GoHs
Michael Georges, Michael Hague (Sat. only); TM John M. Ford
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 33 – Oct. 26-28, 2001

GoHs Hal Clement & Harry Turtledove; Art GoH Todd Lockwood;
Fan GoH Danielle Link (elected onsite); TM Robert Vardeman
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 32 – Oct. 20-22, 2000

GoHs Ben Bova, Spider and Jeanne Robinson & C. Dean Andersson;
Art GoH John Kovalic; Musical GoHs TriDestiny; Fan GoH Christian
Link (elected onsite); TM P.D. Cacek
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 31 – Oct. 22-24, 1999

GoHs Lois McMaster Bujold & K.W. Jeter; Media GoH Richard Elfman;
Art GoH Robert Daniels Jr.; Fan GoH Annabel Bugg (elected onsite);
TM Kevin J. Anderson
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 30 – Oct. 23-25, 1998

GoHs Kevin J. Anderson, Lawrence Watt-Evans; Art GoH Ellis
Mitchell; TM L.E. Modesitt, Jr.
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 29 – Oct. 24-26, 1997 (aka DonnerCon)

GoHs Michael Resnick, S.M. Stirling; Art GoH Liz Danforth;
Media GoH George Johnsen; TM Ed Bryant
Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 28 – Oct. 25-27, 1996
 GoHs Frederik Pohl, Jennifer Roberson; Art GoHs David Martin, Diana Harlan Stein; Media GoH Richard Hatch; TM Wil McCarthy
 Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 27 – Oct. 20-22, 1995
 GoHs Poul Anderson, Greg Bear; Art GoH Phil Foglio; Media GoH Haley McLane; TM Simon Hawke
 Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 26 – Oct. 21-23, 1994
 GoH Ellen Datlow; Art GoH Ruth Thompson; Fan GoH George "Lan" Laskowski; Special Guest David Barron (Klingon Language Institute); TM Larry Niven
 Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 25 – Oct. 22-24, 1993
 Returning GoHs: Steven Brust, George R.R. Martin, S.P. Somtow, Connie Willis; Art GoH Erin McKee; TM Ed Bryant
 Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 24 – Oct. 23-25, 1992
 GoHs Steven Brust, Emma Bull, Kara Dalkey, Pamela Dean, Will Shetterly (The Scribbles)
 Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 23 – Oct. 18-20, 1991 (aka The Plague Year)
 GoH Sheri S. Tepper (in absentia); Special GoH S.P. Somtow; Art GoH Erin McKee; Fan GoH KathE Walker; TM Connie Willis
 Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 22 – Oct. 26-28, 1990
 GoHs George RR Martin & Dan Simmons; TM John Stith
 Chairs Suzanne Reece & Don C. Thompson

MileHiCon 21 – Oct. 27-29, 1989
 GoH Robert Bloch; Fan GoH Forrest J. Ackerman;
 TM Simon Hawke
 Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 20 – Oct. 21-23, 1988
 GoHs Jack L. Chalker, Connie Willis; Fan GoH Don C. Thompson;
 TM Simon Hawke
 Chair Linda Nelson

MileHiCon 19 – Oct. 24-26, 1987
 GoHs C.J. Cherryh, Peter S. Beagle; TM Ed Bryant
 Chair Gail Barton

MileHiCon 18 – Oct. 24-26, 1986
 GoHs Juanita Coulson, Gahan Wilson; TM Somtow Sucharikul;
 TM General Ed Bryant
 Chair Dana Cain

MileHiCon 17 – Oct. 25-27, 1985
 GoH Somtow Sucharikul; Fan GoH Leslie Fish; TM Ed Bryant
 Chair Rose Beetem

MileHiCon 16 – Oct. 26-28, 1984
 GoH Robert Asprin; Fan GoH Suzanne Reece; Co-Toasties Connie & Courtney Willis
 Chair Maria Ladd

MileHiCon 15 – Oct. 21-23, 1983
 GoHs George R.R. Martin; Fan GoH Pat Taylor; TM Howard Waldrop
 Chair Dana Cain

MileHiCon 14 – Oct. 22-24, 1982
 GoH Ed Bryant; Art GoH Kelly Freas; Fan GoH Bruce Dane;
 TM Connie Willis
 Chair Gail Barton

MileHiCon 13 – Oct. 23-24, 1981
 GoH Theodore Sturgeon; Fan GoH Tom Digby; TM Bob Vardeman
 Chair Rose Beetem

MileHiCon 12 – Oct. 24-26, 1980
 GoH Stephen Donaldson; Fan GoH Roy Tackett; TM Ed Bryant
 Chair Rose Beetem

MileHiCon 11 – Oct. 26-28, 1979
 GoH Jack Williamson; Fan GoH Curt Stubbs; TM Ed Bryant
 Chair Bruce Miller

MileHiCon 10 – Oct. 27-29, 1978
 GoH William Tenn; Fan GoH Fran Skene; TM Ed Bryant;
 Chairs Doris D. Beetem & David Anderson

MileHiCon 9 – Oct. 28-30, 1977
 GoH Roger Zelazny; Fan GoH Bruce D. Arthurs; TM Ed Bryant
 Chair Doris D. Beetem

MileHiCon 8 – Oct. 22-24, 1976
 GoH Marion Zimmer Bradley; Fan GoH Don C. Thompson;
 TM Ed Bryant
 Chairs Ted Peak & Judith Brownlee

MileHiCon 7 – Oct. 24-26, 1975
 GoH Joanna Russ; Fan GoH Bob Vardeman; TM Ed Bryant
 Chairs Ted Peak & Judith Brownlee

MileHiCon 6 – Oct. 26-27, 1974
 GoH Poul Anderson; Fan GoH Frank Denton; TM Ed Bryant
 Chairs Ted Peak & Judith Brownlee

MileHiCon 5 – Oct. 27-28, 1973
 GoH Gordon Dickson; Fan GoH Devra Langsam; TM Ed Bryant.
 Chairs Ted Peak & Judith Brownlee

MileHiCon 4 – Oct. 21-22, 1972
 GoH Ed Bryant; TM Bob Vardeman
 Chair Judith Brownlee

OctoCon III – Oct. 16, 1971
 Chair Judith Brownlee

Minicon II – Oct. 17, 1970
 Chair Camille 'Caz' Cazedessus

Minicon I – Nov. 15, 1969
 Chair Camille 'Caz' Cazedessus

MileHiCon 52 Guests of Honor



2020 Artist Guest of Honor Alan Pollack

Alan Pollack was born in New Jersey in 1964. Influenced at an early age by artists such as Frank Frazetta and Boris Vallejo, Alan knew that fantasy/sci-fi illustration would be his career of choice. After graduating from high school, he studied at several colleges in NYC including the School of Visual Arts, Parsons School of Design and the New School of Figurative Art. In his early twenties, Alan worked part-time as a silk screener and a photo retoucher while continuing to build his portfolio. In 1991, Alan was assigned his first cover illustration for *Dungeon* magazine with T.S.R Inc. He then found an agent in NYC, but shortly thereafter, was offered a staff position at T.S.R Inc. where he spent the next few years surrounded by great artists while honing his skills. Since then, Alan has worked for many of the industries gaming companies, including Wizards of the Coast and



Blizzard Entertainment, and his work has graced the covers of most of the leading book publishers in this country, including Harper/Collins, Daw Books, Del Rey, Baen Books, Tor Books, ROC and the Science Fiction Book Club. Alan also has had the honor of being chosen as the cover artist for *Spectrum*, an illustration annual which focuses on the year's best science fiction and fantasy art. In 2015, Alan was one of the top five nominees chosen for the Hugo Award for Best Professional Artist.

Website: <http://www.AlanPollack.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Alan-Pollack-971751426267305>

Instagram: @pollackart64



Photo by K. Osborne

2020 Author Guest of Honor Mur Lafferty

Mur Lafferty is an author, editor, podcaster and gamer. She is the author of *Solo: A Star Wars Story*, as well as *Six Wakes*—a clone murder mystery in space that was nominated for the 2018 Hugo, Nebula and Philip K. Dick Awards—and *Bookburners*, a collaboration effort about a group of demon hunters for the Vatican. *Bookburners* continues through four seasons currently, available at Serial Box. Her book, *The Shambling Guide to New York City*, won the 2014 Manly Wade Wellman Award and its sequel, *Ghost Train to New Orleans*, won the 2015 Manly Wade Wellman Award! Her latest book is *Minecraft: The Lost Journals*, an original novel in the Minecraft universe. Mur won the Hugo for Best Fancast in 2018 for *Ditch Diggers*, her podcast with Matt Wallace, and in 2015 she was inducted into the Podcast Academy Hall of Fame for her 15+ years of podcasting.



Website: <http://murverse.com/>

Twitter: mightymur



Photo by Jonathan Worth

2020 Author Guest of Honor Cory Doctorow

Cory Doctorow is a science fiction author, activist, journalist and blogger—co-editor of *Boing Boing* (boingboing.net) and the author of *Radicalized* and *Walkaway*, science fiction for adults, a YA graphic novel called *In Real Life*, the nonfiction business book *Information Doesn't Want To Be Free*, and young adult novels like *Homeland*, *Pirate Cinema* and *Little Brother*. His next book is *Poesy The Monster Slayer*, a picture book for young readers. He works for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, is a MIT Media Lab Research Affiliate, a Visiting Professor of Computer Science at Open University, a Visiting Professor of Practice at the University of South Carolina's School of Library and Information Science and co-founded the UK Open Rights Group. Born in Toronto, Canada, he now lives in Los Angeles.



<https://craphound.com/>

An Introduction to Cory Doctorow by Jo Walton

I've been asked to introduce you to your guest of honour, Cory Doctorow. It's difficult introducing someone so well known, someone who's not just written science fiction but lived it, someone who wrote one of the web's most important blogs for 19 years, before reinventing the form with a new solo project last January. He's someone who fights for internet freedom and against censorship, in addition to being an excellent and award-winning author. So I'm going to say a few things about him that are perhaps less well known.

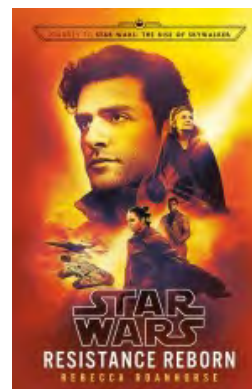
You're lucky to have Cory as a guest of honour. He's a consistently interesting person with nifty ideas about all kinds of different things. He's one of those people where if you toss any interesting concept in his direction he'll pick it up and transform it into something shinier and more unexpected. Catch all his panels, whatever subject, and if you have the chance to engage him in conversation you won't be disappointed, so don't only talk to him about the things where he's an expert. He's a great person to talk to. He's also consistently interested, he listens when other people are talking, a thing that's rarer than it should be.

And personally he's kind, smart, thoughtful and optimized – by which I mean that he's spent a long time tuning his life to make the best use of his time, to be productive and have fun. He's thought about this more than most people. He's from Canada, he's lived in London, England, and now lives in California, so he has a fairly broad worldwide perspective. When I was watching the series of videos (available online) on the History of Censorship he did for the University of Chicago with Ada Palmer, I noticed that all the men except Cory were dressed in "guy uniform" and almost all the women were wearing clothes that demonstrated they'd put some thought into how they'd appear. Cory had also put that kind of thought into his outfits, and that's neat and unusual. Nobody should have to do this if they don't want to, but women tend to get pressurized if they don't, and it's a really nice change to see a man pay attention to this.

But Cory is more than an internet personality, or even a human being. He's also a science fiction writer who has for the whole length of the twenty-first century so far been producing some of the most consistently interesting positive SF around. These days it's much easier to be taken seriously as a writer if you write dark dystopian fiction than if you try to write about positive futures we could get to from here. It's hard to be positive about the world sometimes – indeed, it's much easier to be negative and cynical, but it's essential to realize that the trend isn't always inevitable downbeat. Cory's been writing what I call grounded hopeful futures all through his career, from his early short work and *Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom* (2003) through the multi-award-winning *Little Brother* (2008) right up to the novel he just wrote during lockdown. (Who else wrote a book during lockdown? Who else could even write sentences?) His new book *Attack Surface* is due out this October; it's set in the *Little Brother* universe. Cory knows tech and the internet, he works with the Electronic Frontier Foundation, he isn't a hippie dreamer, he's writing solid science fiction, looking at the world of today and projecting forward interesting speculations leading to better tomorrows. His books make it feel like it might be possible to build a better world if we work together, if we make good choices, if we embrace the possibilities and open things up instead of closing them down. In addition to being positive futures, they're also all full of thought-provoking ideas and great characters – he's an immensely readable writer. If this is your lucky day and you haven't read him yet, I'd recommend starting with either *Little Brother* or last year's collection *Radicalized*.

2020 Author Guest of Honor Rebecca Roanhorse

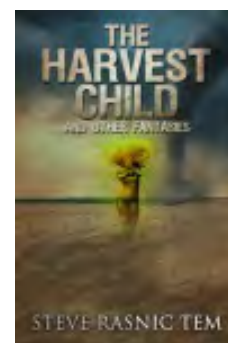
Rebecca Roanhorse is a Nebula, Hugo and Locus Award-winning speculative fiction writer and the recipient of the 2018 Astounding (Campbell) Award for Best New Writer. Her novel *Trail of Lightning* (Book 1 in the *Sixth World Series*) won the Locus Award for Best First Novel and is a Nebula, Hugo and World Fantasy finalist. It was also selected as an Amazon, B&N, Library Journal and NPR Best Books of 2018, among others. Book 2 in the *Sixth World Series*, *Storm of Locusts*, has received starred reviews from Publisher's Weekly and Booklist. Her next novel, *Resistance Reborn*, is part of *Star Wars: Journey to The Rise of Skywalker* and is out in November 2019. Her middle grade novel *Race to the Sun* for the Rick Riordan Present's Imprint will release in January of 2020, and her epic fantasy novel *Between Earth and Sky* will follow in late 2020. Her short fiction can be found in *Apex Magazine*, *New Suns*, *The Mythic Dream*, and various other anthologies. Her non-fiction can be found in *Uncanny Magazine*, *Strange Horizons*, and *How I Resist: Activism and Hope for a New Generation* (Macmillan). She lives in Northern New Mexico with her husband, daughter and pups. She drinks a lot of black coffee.



<https://rebeccaroanhorse.com/>

2020 Toastmaster Steve Rasnic Tem

Steve Rasnic Tem's collaborative novella with his late wife Melanie Tem, *The Man On The Ceiling*, won the World Fantasy, Bram Stoker, and International Horror Guild awards in 2001. He has also won the Bram Stoker, International Horror Guild, and British Fantasy Awards for his solo work. His novel *UBO* (Solaris, January 2017) is a dark science fictional tale about violence and its origins, featuring such historical viewpoint characters as Jack the Ripper, Stalin, and Heinrich Himmler. A handbook on writing, *Yours to Tell: Dialogues on the Art & Practice of Fiction*, also written with Melanie, appeared in 2017 from Apex Books. The best of his 430+ published short stories are collected in *Figures Unseen: Selected Stories* from Valancourt Books.



<http://stevetem.com/>

Steve Rasnic Tem
by Stace Johnson

Meet Steve Rasnic Tem, award-winning writer and Toastmaster for MileHiCon 2020. I've known Steve for over 20 years, and I'm honored to call him my friend. Steve has been a fixture in the Denver writing scene since the mid-70s, when he moved here from Lee County, Virginia. Having already attended Virginia Polytechnic prior to moving, he studied creative writing with a combined focus on poetry and fiction at Colorado State University and published several science fiction stories under his given name, Steve Rasnic, starting in 1978.

After moving to Denver, Steve met fellow writer Melanie Kubachko. They fell in love and married, choosing to take the joint surname of "Tem," a term with roots in both gypsy and Egyptian cultures, representing the creative landscape that always existed within them both but didn't fully awaken until

they found each other. Thus began a decades-long partnership in parenting, writing, and teaching, and a productivity streak that resulted in a large vintage bookcase filled — spine-out — with books containing their work. Sadly, Melanie left this world in early 2015, but Steve soldiers on, with numerous short story and novel sales in recent years, including *The Night Doctor and Other Tales*, *Figures Unseen: Selected Stories from Valancourt*, *The Mask Shop of Doctor Blaack*, and *Ubo*, a novel about a man forced to relive evil acts committed by historical figures, but from their viewpoint.

Steve is one of the most prolific writers working today, with over 450 short stories, three plays, six graphic stories/comics, and 39 novels and chapbooks across a wide range of poetry, fiction, YA fiction, nonfiction, and instructional works. He publishes so much that rather than updating a giant list on his website whenever he makes a sale, he just uploads a new version of his constantly updated bibliography. (It's currently 27 pages long.) He has won the Bram Stoker Award four times, the International Horror Guild award twice, the World Fantasy Award, and the British Fantasy Award. His collaborative chapbook with Melanie Tem, *The Man on the Ceiling*, is the only work ever to have won the International Horror Guild, World Fantasy, and Bram Stoker awards in the same year. He has also been a resident instructor at the Odyssey Writing Workshop, and compiled the seminal Umbral Anthology of Science Fiction Poetry, which was nominated for the Philip K. Dick Award.

In person, he's quiet and unassuming, with a dry, sometimes wry sense of humor. Once, while I was helping him run a network cable at his house, I had to reach under a particularly large and heavy desk, where a community of spiders had been busy at work. After I fished out the cable and cleaned off my hands, I said something like, "You know, you have a pretty healthy collection of spider webs under there. I'd hate for you to get bitten." After a perfect pause, Steve deadpanned in his soft Appalachian accent, "I prefer to think of them as cobwebs."

None of these are the reasons you should read Steve Rasnic Tem's writing, though. You should read him because of lines like this gut-wrencher, from the story "Half-Light" in *The Night Doctor and Other Tales*: "When work is done, when love is done, the soul can wonder what remains, but the one thing it cannot do is explain."

And this one, from "Twember" in *Figures Unseen: Selected Stories from Valancourt*: "Of course, this wasn't snow—it was nothing like snow. It was like the moments had been snatched from the air and allowed to die, left to litter the ground. He tried to step carefully, but still they fractured with very little force."

Or this, from the triple-award-winning *The Man on the Ceiling*: "He rakes back the curtains and shows me the sky: peach and purple and gray like the colors of his eyes when he opens them, like the colors of his mouth, the colors of his tongue when he laughs even more loudly and heads for the open door of one of my children's rooms."

Steve's writing is rich with imagery and emotion. Sometimes chilling, more often ephemeral than visceral, his stories force us to confront our successes and failures as human beings. He writes about fear, pain, and loss, but always in the context of love, and we are better people for having joined him on the journey.

Other MileHiCon 52 Guests & Participants



Alex Acks is an award-winning writer, Book Riot contributor, geologist and sharp-dressed sir. Angry Robot Books has published their novels *Hunger Makes the Wolf* (winner of the 2017 Kitschies Golden Tentacle award) and *Blood Binds the Pack* under the pen name Alex Wells. Their steampunk novella collection, *Murder On the Titania and Other Steam-Powered Adventures*, is nominated for the Colorado Book Award, and the sequel *Wireless and Other Steam-Powered Adventures* is available from Queen of Swords Press. They've had short fiction in Tor.com, *Strange Horizons*, *Gigantotaurus*, *Daily Science Fiction*, *Lightspeed*, and more, and are a contributing editor at Book Riot. They've also written several episodes of Six to Start's Superhero Workout game and races for their RaceLink project. Alex lives in Denver (where they bicycle, drink tea, and twirl their ever-so-dapper mustache) with their two furry little jerks. <https://katsudon.net/>; [@katsudonburi](https://www.instagram.com/alexacks/); <https://www.instagram.com/alexacks/>

Tim Anderson. Adventurer, wizard, bovine hypnotist, billionaire playboy... all things he'd like to be if/when he grows up. He'd also like to control physics with his mind. (Wouldn't we all?) He works as part of the development team on Star Command: Galaxies, and has released several solo games for iOS & Android—Paths of Tzalar, Extreme Dog Sculptor, and Scooter Magrew. Tim is a radio host/producer on Master Control, which you can hear around 7:30 pm every Friday. He cameoed as an applicant in "The Guild (season 3)" and was an extra in the film *The One Who Loves You*.

Amy Armstrong hosts *Stories Live!* once a month on YouTube, an online open mic that features short stories and novel excerpts primarily written by authors in the Colorado area. Guests have included Travis Heermann, Rebecca Hodgkins, Jeamus Wilkes, and Stephen Graham Jones. When Amy isn't hosting, she tries to write women's fiction. <http://www.amyarmstrongwrites.com>; <https://www.facebook.com/groups/591375601590731/>; [@AmyAliceWrites](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL-IPQnEBrw-BanhNFx775g); <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL-IPQnEBrw-BanhNFx775g>



When not oppressed by his day job, Chris Barili writes all kinds of stories, and has published fantasy, science fiction, horror, western, paranormal romance, and now crime, with a noir story in the 2019 inaugural print edition of *Toe Six Magazine*. He is author of the self-published, weird western *Hell's Butcher* series, and also writes under the pen names B.T. Clearwater (supernatural romance) and T.C. Barlow (western). He sold his first novel, a romance called *Smothered*, to Permuted Press in 2016, and in 2017, his fantasy novel debuted from WordFire Press. <http://www.authorchrisbarili.ink>; <https://www.facebook.com/authorchrisbarili/>; [@authorchrisbarili](https://www.facebook.com/authorchrisbarili/)



John Barnes has written about 35 books and book-length works, most of them fiction, most of that science fiction. He has also written a lot of other stuff, and still writes occasionally. At various times he has gotten paid for doing work in show business, marketing research, fiction writing and editing, college teaching, and numerous survival jobs. Today he mainly works as a data scientist for a tax resolution company.



Doris (Dee) Beetem is a founding DASFAn, Star Trek fan/fic writer back in the day, early SCAer, now hunkering down in Houston TX. Currently running a Virtual Call of Cthulhu campaign. It took a pandemic, but people are finally available on Friday night!



Rose Beetem is the last fan standing who has attended all 51 MileHiCons (including the MiniCons and OctoCon). She is also a founding member of the Denver Area Science Fiction Association (DASFA). A generalist fan with an addiction to con organizing, she has been on the MHC con com most years since she was 16 and chaired the 43rd tiny, 100% participatory Karval Kon in 2020. (We'll see what 2021 holds...) She enjoys urban fantasy, *Supernatural*, most of the Star Wars canon, ditto MCU, and thinks DS9 was the best of the Treks. Rose is a semi-universal auntie (got a spare kiddo?), and is passionate about curries.

Art treatment by Laura R. Givens



Owned by two cats named Adara and Taj, Dana Bell writes stories starring her fur babies as often as she can. She loves to tell tales set in places she has lived or visited and has a fascination for lighthouses, Yellowstone National Park, and doll houses, which have taken over her basement. Her published books include *Winter Awakening* and *God's Gift*. Her short fiction can be found in various anthologies including *Extinct*, *Supernatural Colorado* and many others. She writes paranormal romance under her pen name Belle Blukat. Currently residing in Colorado, she keeps her fur babies happy with lots of toys, food and a warm place to sleep. <https://www.facebook.com/Dana-Bells-Fan-Page-115362238532416>; @dragonlots5

Taken at Superstars Writer Conference in 2015



Carol Berg is the bestselling author of fifteen epic fantasy novels and half a dozen novellas and short stories. Carol also writes as Cate Glass, the author of the fantasy adventure series *Chimera*. Carol resides at the foot of the Colorado Rockies, but she has lived a large portion of her life in realms of mystery and adventure - Middle Earth, Camelot, Amber, Wonderland, Harry Dresden's Chicago, Jim Chee's New Mexico, Victorian London, Cold War Berlin, the Welsh borderlands, River Heights, Marvel's version of Hell's Kitchen...you get the drift. Carol studied mathematics and software engineering at Rice University and the University of Colorado respectively. A few years into a career as a software development engineer, she took up a hobby of writing her own fiction. Many manuscripts later Carol (as Cate) is deep into the stories of the Chimera. Between them, Carol and Cate have won four Colorado Book Awards, the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award, and numerous other honors. Carol and her mechanical engineer spouse have three sons who juggle music and teaching, software and carpentry, rocket science and ice hockey. Cate's third *Chimera* adventure, *A Summoning of Demons*, will be released in February 2021.

Photo by Mark Stevens

<http://www.carolberg.com>; <http://www.facebook.com/carolberg>; @CateGlassWriter



Jane M.H. Bigelow loves speculative fiction, archeology, history, travel, music, and gardening. She has published one novel, *Talisman*, several short stories, and articles involving all the above, although not all at once. *Masques of Darkover* (2017) included her fourth Darkover story, "Duvin's Grand Tour." She is currently writing a mystery with the working title of *The Body Under the Bed*. She lives in Denver with her husband, Robert, and cats Shiraz and Thunderpurr.



Carina Bissett is a writer, poet, and educator working primarily in the fields of dark fiction and interstitial art. Her short fiction and poetry have been published in multiple journals and anthologies including *Weird Dream Society*, *Arterial Bloom*, *Gorgon: Stories of Emergence*, *Hath No Fury*, *Mythic Delirium*, *NonBinary Review*, and the *HWA Poetry Showcase Vol. V and VI*. She teaches online workshops at The Storied Imaginarium, and she is a graduate of the Creative Writing MFA program at Stonecoast. She is a member of Codex, SFWA, SFPA, and HWA. Her work has been nominated for several awards including the Pushcart Prize and the Sundress Publications Best of the Net. Links to her work can be found on her website.

<http://carinabissett.com>; <https://www.facebook.com/carina.bissett.5>; @cmariabissett

MH (Maggie) Bonham is an award-winning author and editor of more than 50 books. She is the author of the bestselling urban fantasy series, *The Ironspell Chronicles*, that is set in Denver, Colorado. She is also the publisher of Sky Warrior Books and Laughing Llama Media. Visit her website at www.ironspellchronicles.com.



David Boop is a Denver-based speculative fiction author & editor. He's also an award-winning essayist, and screenwriter. Before turning to fiction, David worked as a DJ, film critic, journalist, and actor. As editor-in-chief at *IntraDenver.net*, David's team was on the ground at Columbine making them the only internet newspaper to cover the tragedy. That year, they won an award for excellence from the Colorado Press Association for their design and coverage. David's debut novel was the sci-fi noir *She Murdered Me with Science* from WordFire Press. David was editor on the bestselling and award-nominated weird western anthology series, *Straight Outta Tombstone*, *Straight Outta Deadwood* and *Straight Outta Dodge City* for Baen. David has many short stories and two short films to his credit. He's published across several genres including media tie-ins for *Predator*, *The Green Hornet*, *The Black Bat* and *Veronica Mars*. Additionally, he does a flash fiction mystery series on *Gumshoereview.com* called *The Trace Walker Temporary Mysteries*. He's a summa cum laude graduate from UC-Denver in the creative writing program. He temps, collects Funko Pops, and is a believer. His hobbies include film noir, anime, the Blues and History. You can find out more at Davidboop.com, Facebook.com/dboopupdates or Twitter @david_boop.



Fleur Bradley is the author of many middle-grade books aimed at reluctant readers, including the (spooky) mystery *Midnight at the Barclay Hotel* (Viking/Penguin Random House). Her short story *The Perfect Alibi* appeared in the 2020 MWA short story anthology *Super Puzzletastic Mysteries* (Harper Children's). Fleur is passionate about two things: mysteries and getting kids to read, and she regularly speaks at librarian and educator conferences on reaching reluctant readers. Originally from the Netherlands, Fleur now lives in Colorado Springs with her husband and two daughters, and entirely too many cats. For more information on Fleur and her books, visit www.ftbradley.com, and on Twitter @FTBradleyAuthor.



S.A. Bradley is the host of the popular podcast *Hellbent for Horror*, exploring all things horror across books, film, comics, and music. Bradley has loved being scared by over 1,600 horror films. He's turned his passion into purpose, sharing his expansive knowledge on dozens of podcasts and in anthologies like *Medium Chill* and *EvilSpeak* magazine. *Hellbent for Horror* was a Rondo Hatton Classic Horror Awards nominee for Best Multi-Media Horror Site in both 2018 and 2019 and was described by director Guillermo Del Toro as "Well researched, articulate and entirely absorbing." Bradley's first book, *Screaming for Pleasure: How Horror Makes You Happy and Healthy*, is a thrilling ride through the horror genre and its intense effect on every generation. He shows how you can be enriched by horror. Additionally, Bradley's one-man show, "My Horror Manifesto", discusses the cultural bias against horror in art and popular culture. He has performed it in NYC, San Francisco and Tucson, AZ.

Ian Brazee-Cannon was a storyteller from a young age, always being involved in various creative endeavors. He is a writer, filmmaker, game designer and podcaster. His first novel, *A Day at Georgie and Armand's Place*, the story of two gay, shape-shifting, master mage dragons who run an inter-dimensional hotel saw publication in 2019. Over two dozen of his short stories have seen publication. 'Divided States of America,' 'The Fifth Di...', 'Wondrous Web Worlds,' 'Forgotten Worlds,' 'Tales of the Talisman' and various anthologies have featured his works. He has worked on supplements for the *Ephemeris* RPG. He is a founder and regular co-host on the *Amateur Skeptics* podcast. Dangling Carrot Films, Running Riot Productions and Ijin Studios have made use of him as a writer, director, producer and editor on their projects.



Jonathan Brazee is a retired Marine colonel and now a full-time hybrid writer who just moved to Colorado Springs with wife Kiwi and year-and-a-half old twin girls, Danika Dawn and Darika Marie. He has over 75 published titles, most being military SF. He is a two-time Nebula Award finalist, a Dragon Award finalist, and a USA Today bestseller. He is a member of RWA and SFWA where he serves as the Professional Education Committee chair.



Karen Burnham is a short fiction reviewer for *Locus* magazine and *Cascadia Subduction Zone*; author of a book on Greg Egan. She is also an electromagnetics engineer who has worked on hybrid electric cars and spaceships.



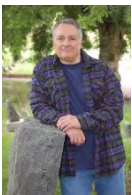
Dr. Andrew Burt (www.ReAnimus.com), former SFWA VP, has lots of published SF, and herds Critters (www.critique.org), the first writers' workshop on the web and home to other writers' resources. He's CEO of ReAnimus Press and Hugo-winning Advent Publishers, helping authors such as Ben Bova, Robert Silverberg, Ursula K. LeGuin, and many others breathe life into great books. He's been a computer science professor (AI, networking, security, privacy, and free-speech/social issues); founder of Nyx.net, the world's first ISP; and a technology consultant/author/speaker. For a hobby, he constructs solutions to the world's problems. Fortunately, nobody listens.



It is a little-known fact that Kit Campbell was raised in the wild by a marauding gang of octopuses. It wasn't until she was 25 that she was discovered by a traveling National Geographic scientist and brought back to civilization. This is sometimes apparent in the way that she attempts to escape through tubes when startled. Her transition to normalcy has been slow, but scientists predict that she will have mastered basics such as fork use sometime in the next year. More complex skills, such as proper grocery store etiquette, may be forever outside her reach. She can be found online at <http://kitcampbellbooks.com>, where there are occasional landsquid and other fun things.



Marie DesJardin writes humorous to dramatic science fiction, fantasy, and alternative history—from novels to screenplays, about subjects past, present, and future. Credits include *Analog Science Fiction and Fact*, *Compelling Science Fiction*, *Flash Fiction Online*, *Helios Quarterly Magazine* (featured author), *Story Quest* (award winner), and the ZNB anthology *Temporally Deactivated*. She was a finalist in the 2017 AnLab Readers' Choice Awards and appeared in *Humans Wanted*, an Amazon bestseller. Favorite things include animals, the outdoors, and travel—she's visited over 30 countries pre-pandemic. Marie lives in Colorado, where she enjoys hiking in the mountains when they're not on fire. Please see amazon.com/author/mariedesjardin



F.P. Dorchak has been writing horror, metaphysical, and speculative fiction since he was six years old. Frank is published in the U.S., Canada, and the Czech Republic. His novels are *Voice*, *Psychic*, *ERO*, *The Uninvited* and *Sleepwalkers*. His anthology, *Do The Dead Dream?* won the 2017 Best Books Award for Fiction: Short Stories. His short stories have appeared in small press magazines, as well as the regional anthologies *You Belong 2016*, *Words and Images from Longmont Area Residents*, the 2012 *The You Belong Collection*, *Writings and Illustrations by Longmont Area Residents*. His newest novel-in-progress is an homage to Ray Bradbury's *The Martian Chronicles*. Frank can occasionally be reached in séances, and his website is www.fpdorchak.com. Don't believe everything he tells you.



Betsy Dornbusch writes epic fantasy, and has dabbled in science fiction, thrillers, and erotica. Her short fiction has appeared in over twenty magazines and anthologies, and she's the author of three novellas. Her first fantasy novel came out in 2012 and her latest trilogy, *Books of the Seven Eyes*, wrapped up with *Enemy* in 2017. *The Silver Scar*, a standalone future fantasy novel, was called "a spellbinding saga" by Publisher's Weekly. She likes writing, reading, snowboarding, punk rock, and the Denver Broncos. Betsy and her family split their time between Boulder and Grand Lake, Colorado.

Daniel Dvorkin, a joint production of David and Leonore Dvorkin, has served in the Army and Air Force, and has a Ph.D. in bioinformatics, which was harder than anything the military threw at him. His non-academic writing includes two novels co-authored with David Dvorkin, and some short pieces in magazines which went out of business shortly after publishing his stories. He lives in Denver with his fiancée Rebecca Lee and their cats Raven and Surprise. <https://www.facebook.com/DanielTheMedic>



David Dvorkin was born in England, lived in South Africa, and attended high school and college in the U.S. He now lives in Denver, Colorado. He has worked as an aerospace engineer, software developer, and technical writer. He is the author of a number of novels—science fiction, horror, mystery and three Star Trek novels—as well as book-length non-fiction. In recent years, David has switched entirely from traditional publishing to self-publishing, and he and his wife, Leonore, help other authors self-publish their work. For much more information, please visit his website: www.dvorkin.com.

Claire Eddy is an executive editor at Tor/Forge Books and has been with the company for over three decades. She began editing science fiction and fantasy early in her career and has worked with such authors as Jacqueline Carey, Juliet Marillier, Sherrilyn Kenyon and Gene Wolfe. While she still edits these genres, she has broadened her projects to include horror, historicals and thrillers. She's spent the better part of her adult life working with authors to make their stories and dreams be the best they can be, becoming that "third eye" and nudge to accomplish this feat.

Arlen Feldman is a software engineer, entrepreneur (co-founder of Cherwell Software), costumer (of questionable taste), maker, tome-length computer book author and somewhat published author of fiction. He is also co-chair of the COSine Sci-Fi convention in Colorado Springs. <https://cowthulu.com/>; [@arlenfeldman](https://twitter.com/arlenfeldman)



Photo by Anna Wood

Danyda Feldman is a professional storyteller, doll and fairy door artist, and professor of Transformational Linguistics. She has performed before the crowned heads of Europe (which were mounted on a shelf at the time). She is a member of the Mile High Polymer Clay Guild, Jane Austen Society, and Daughters of the Dance Dance Revolution. <http://www.danydafeldman.com/>; <https://www.facebook.com/danyda.feldman/>; <https://twitter.com/taleskai>



Photo by Robbie Knight

Jo Fontana lives in Denver, Colorado, with her daughter and their special needs cats. She is a member of the Colorado Authors' League and the author of the *Turtle Monkey* series. She has written an anthology titled *Approaching Darkness*. The author won first place for her short story "The Plant Lady" at the Quid Novi Festival, 2014. She has completed her first novel, *The Egg Quest*, and is currently working on the sequel, *The Demon Swarm*. Her new novel, *Gods of the Bay*, is available now.



Erika Frensley is a technical writer based in Houston, Texas. She is a fan of comics, movies, TV, pulps, and history, not all in that order and not all separated. She has helped on several conventions in the Houston area, and has attended MileHiCon for years.

Richard Friesen writes science fiction and fantasy, and sometimes he even tries to be funny. There's a fantasy series called the *Dreaming King Saga*, and a space opera series (in progress), *Clark Family Legend*. Wait, I'm forgetting something. Oh! Can't forget Narcolepsy, a super hero whose power is falling asleep. He does take you into his dreams with him, but there's no way that could be funny. Read it for yourself and see.



Steve Gaalema is presently working on LIDAR sensors for self-driving vehicles. Previous work included designing remote sensing instruments using IR detectors, including work on NASA Mars Climate Sounder instrument on the Mars Orbiter (operating in Mars orbit over ten years now). He is interested in climate issues and has been an "expert reviewer" for the last three major IPCC assessment reports. Steve is also interested in most all physical science and engineering and has a PhD in electrical engineering.

Jim Gunderson is just your typical evil genius. By day he works under his cover identity as a mild-mannered computer scientist helping businesses leverage their data by applying artificial intelligence solutions. He likes spending time in the yard gardening and when the weather is right he and wife Louise go out chasing tornadoes. They also volunteer as part of an emergency communications group supporting the Red Cross and the City of Denver. At night he retires to the basement lab. There he puts his minions to work fabricating parts as he works on his quest to create our future super-intelligent robotic overlords. Oh, and he likes puppies.





Photo by William Purcell

Since her first novel, *Time of the Dark*, in 1982, **Barbara Hambly** has written fantasy, science fiction, historical whodunnits, respectable historical novels, horror, graphic novels, media tie-ins, and Saturday morning cartoons. Recently she has concentrated on the well-reviewed historical mystery Benjamin January series, and the Asher/Ysidro vampire series, both for Severn House, UK (though all of her backlist is currently available through Open Road Media). The next Benjamin January mystery, *House of the Patriarch*, will appear in October; she is currently working on what she hopes will be the first of a new mystery series set in 1920s Hollywood. She also writes short fiction about the further adventures of characters from her fantasy novels of the '80s and '90s, which can be purchased via download on either Amazon Kindle Direct or Smashwords. She also teaches history at a local community college. Her other occupations are painting, cosplay, and iaido. Now a widow, she lives in Los Angeles with several small carnivores.



Photo by Mark Stevens, Author, Photographer

Brenda M. Hardwick is an award-winning indie author who began writing at the age of ten, starting with poetry. Then she discovered fantasy. The genre allowed her to create everything and place it anywhere and any-when she wanted. After winning second place in Rocky Mountain Fiction Writer's Colorado Gold Contest with the first three chapters of *Harlem Angel, Book 1 of The Circle* in 1993, life happened. Twenty-five years later after retiring from a 27-year career in state government, *Harlem Angel* was published in 2018. The sequel, *The Conductor, Book 2 of The Circle*, was released during the pandemic lockdown in April 2020. Brenda has self-published two fiction and two non-fiction titles, three of which have won awards. Her current work in progress is *Freedom Rings: Book 3 of The Circle*, targeted for release in the spring of 2021. Brenda lives in Colorado with her dog Lelu and has two sons, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. www.brendahardwickauthor.com; <https://www.facebook.com/BrendahAuthor>; @BrendaMHardwick; Instagram – brendahauthor



Freelance writer, novelist, award-winning screenwriter, editor, poker player, poet, and biker, **Travis Heermann** is a graduate of the Odyssey Writing Workshop, an Active member of SFWA and the HWA, and the author of the upcoming *Tokyo Blood Magic, The Hammer Falls, The Ronin Trilogy, Rogues of the Black Fury*, and co-author of *Death Wind*. His short fiction appears in Baen Books' anthology *Straight Outta Deadwood*, plus Apex Magazine, Tales to Terrify, Fiction River, Cemetery Dance's Shivers VII, and others. As a freelance writer, he has contributed a metric ton of work to such game properties as Firefly Roleplaying Game, Legend of Five Rings, EVE Online, and BattleTech. He enjoys cycling, collecting martial arts styles and belts, torturing young minds with otherworldly ideas, and monsters of every flavor, especially those with a soft, creamy center.

Jim Henderson is a writer of fun, varied, and technically sound science fiction adventures with some exploration of the human condition and the evolution of human society. He is also a long-term Air Force veteran and a cybersecurity professional with decades of experience in intelligence, communications, computers, and cyber operations. He has been a life-long aficionado of science fiction in almost every form—books, movies, TV, and games (role-playing, tabletop, and computer). When not mentally exploring the universe, he lives with his wife, son, stepson, and 2 dogs and enjoys hiking in the mountains of Colorado, kayaking on her lakes, gaming, and spending time with his 6 grandchildren.



Patrick Hester is an author, blogger, podcaster and two-time Hugo Award winner. He lives in Colorado, writes science fiction and fantasy, and can usually be found hanging out on social media platforms as @atfmb. His novel, *Samantha Kane: Into the Fire* is available at all major retailers and his short fiction, essays and articles can be found with a little Google-fu. He regularly attends conventions and conferences throughout the year. His website is www.atfmb.com.



Reese Hogan is a nonbinary science fiction author from New Mexico. They have published three novels, and the latest, *Shrouded Loyalties* from Angry Robot, was a Best SFF of August 2019 pick by both Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Reese's short fiction has been published in *The Decameron Project* and in the upcoming *Clockwork, Curses, and Coal*, an anthology of steampunk fairy tale retellings. Reese is passionate about music, especially alternative and punk rock, and believes that art is the most powerful form of communication we have. Learn more at www.reesehogan.com or follow them on Twitter @ReeseHogan1.



Van Aaron Hughes has published science fiction and fantasy stories in F&SF, Orson Scott Card's InterGalactic Medicine Show, Writers of the Future Vol. 27, and various other magazines and anthologies. In real life, he is a lawyer and has argued before the United States Supreme Court. He lives in Denver and is the father of three children much cooler than he is.



James Hunter is a full-time ink-slinger, a member of SFWA, and the bestselling author of the Yancy Lazarus series, *Rogue Dungeon, Bibliomancer*, and the litRPG epic Viridian Gate Online! In addition to writing, James also runs a non-traditional publishing company, Shadow Alley Press, with his wife.



Stace Johnson is a Denver-based writer, musician, and poet, but he makes his living as an IT manager for the 911 industry. He has published several short stories and poems, most recently in Flash in a Flash, Itty Bitty Writing Space, and Star*Line. He has also published over thirty non-fiction articles, the most recent being a remembrance of Ed Bryant for the 2019 Readercon Souvenir Book. Stace is the founder and moderator of the Friends of Ed Bryant Facebook group and an active member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Poetry Association. When he's not writing words or wrangling IT gremlins, he composes and performs geeky parody songs, some of which can be found on his YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/lytspeed. His website is www.lytspeed.com and his Facebook creative page is at www.facebook.com/wrytspeed if you'd like to know more.



Junebug is an artist, cosplayer, and Local Forever-DM.



Photo by Jared Hagan

Carolyn Kay enjoys crossing genres, and imagining what normally inanimate objects would do if given life. She is currently collaborating with award-winning illustrator Chaz Kemp on the World of Ashelon, a series of novellas set in a steampunk fantasy world. When she's not writing, she can be seen dancing with Batavia, a tribal fusion belly dance troupe, cosplaying, or wielding her lightsaber in defense of the Dark Side. You can catch up on her latest shenanigans on her website and social media:

<https://www.carolyнкayauthor.com/>; <https://www.facebook.com/CarolynKayAuthor/>; @Bewitchinghips; <https://www.worldofashelon.com>



Bram Stoker Award finalist Chaz Kemp embraces an Art Nouveau style that incorporates vibrancy and color into fantasy and steampunk art in a way that is rarely seen. As an illustrator, the influence of Alphonse Mucha is evident in his award-winning work that combines the artistic energy of the Roaring Twenties with the untamed diversity of steampunk and fantasy. His current project is the steampunk/fantasy world called Ashelon, which he created with his wife and award-winning author, Carolyn Kay. He's also the art director of Evil Beagle Games. You can find his work at www.ChazKemp.com, buy the Ashelon Oracle Deck at <http://bit.ly/AshelonOracle> or become his patron at www.Patreon.com/ChazKemp; <https://www.chazkemp.com/>;

<https://www.facebook.com/chaz.kemp/>; <https://twitter.com/chazkemp>; The Ashelon Oracle Deck: <http://bit.ly/AshelonOracle>



Self-portrait



Jeffe Kennedy is a RITA® Award-winning author who has also been a Ucross Foundation Fellow, received the Wyoming Arts Council Fellowship for Poetry, and was awarded a Frank Nelson Doubleday Memorial Award. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) as a Director at Large. Jeffe has written nonfiction, erotic romance, and contemporary romance, but she is best known for her fantasy romance and romantic fantasy novels. Book one in her popular Uncharted Realms series, *The Pages of the Mind*, was nominated for the RT Reviewer's Choice Best Fantasy Romance of 2016 and won the 2017 RITA® Award. A novella in that series, *The Dragons of Summer*, finaled for the 2019 RITA Award. In the preceding trilogy, *The Twelve Kingdoms*, book one, *The Mark of the Tala*, received a starred Library Journal review and was nominated for the RT Book of the Year while the sequel, *The Tears of the Rose*, received a Top Pick Gold and was nominated for the RT Reviewers' Choice Best Fantasy Romance of 2014. The third book, *The Talon of the Hawk*, won the RT Reviewers' Choice Best Fantasy Romance of 2015. More recently, St. Martin's Press released *The Orchid Throne* and *The Fiery Crown*, the first two books in a new romantic fantasy series, *The Forgotten Empires*. The third book, *The Promised Queen*, will follow in May 2021. Jeffe lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She is represented by Sarah Younger of Nancy Yost Literary Agency.



Visual Effects pioneer Ed Kramer has been a CGI professional since 1981, and has contributed to some of the best-loved VFX films of all time - including supervising the scarab beetle shots for *The Mummy* and the Rock Monster shots for *Galaxy Quest*. He helped create the iconic Columbia Pictures "Lady with a Torch" logo, and worked on all three STAR WARS Prequels, as well as doing lighting and effects work on *Jurassic Park: The Lost World*, *Harry Potter II*, *Jumanji*, *Twister*, and *The Perfect Storm*. He will present a personal history of computer animation called WIZARDS OF HOLLYWOOD, based on a documentary he is currently producing featuring many of the original artists present at the birth of feature film CGI. Ed is currently the Chair of the SIGGRAPH Pioneers Group, consisting of many of the original developers of the CGI industry.



J.R.H. Lawless is a bestselling SF author from Atlantic Canada who blends comedy with political themes—drawing heavily, in both cases, on their experience as a lawyer and as Secretary General of a Parliamentary group at the French National Assembly. A member of SFWA and Codex Writers, their short fiction has been published in many professional venues, including foreign sales. They are also a craft article contributor to the SFWA blog, the SFWA Bulletin, and Tor.com. Their debut novel, *Always Greener*, is out now from Uproar Books, and the sequel, *The Rude Eye of Rebellion*, is currently on pre-sale before its fall 2020 release. Both books are also Tantor Media audiobooks, with the *Always Greener* audiobook releasing in July 2020. They are represented by Marisa Corvisiero at the Corvisiero Literary Agency, and would love to hear from you on Twitter, over at @SpaceLawyerSF!



A fan of all things fantastical and frightening, Shannon Lawrence writes primarily horror and fantasy. Her stories can be found in over forty anthologies and magazines, and her two solo horror short story collections, *Blue Sludge Blues & Other Abominations* and *Bruised Souls & Other Torments* are available on online retailers. When she's not writing, she's hiking through the wilds of Colorado and photographing her magnificent surroundings, where, coincidentally, there's always a place to hide a body or birth a monster. Find her at www.thewarriormuse.com.

Becca Lee has been a fixture at MileHiCon since the tail end of the Reagan administration. She is working on a long-running series of projects on early 20th century women's history, has enough primary source material to stock a small museum, and still finds it disconcerting to write about herself in the third person. Engaged to Daniel Dvorkin, her other interests include art, gardening, needlework, costuming, cooking, science, and music; in short, well-rounded nerddom. She also goes by the moniker of Goth Hobbit. If you don't know why, you'll figure it out when you see her.



Photo by Richard Dachtera,
<https://www.richdachtera.com/>

Corry L. Lee is a science fiction and fantasy author, Ph.D. physicist, award-winning science teacher, data geek, pansexual, and mom. In *Weave the Lightning*, the first book of her Russian-inspired fantasy series (Solaris, April 2020), magic storms have returned decades early, and a young female resistance fighter hides a treasonous secret from the fascist state. In PhD research at Harvard, Corry shed light on the universe fractions of a second after the Big Bang. At a major tech company, she connected science to technology, improving the customer experience through online experimentation. A transplant to Seattle, Washington, from sunny Colorado, she is learning to embrace rainy days. Learn more at <https://corrylee.com/>; @CorryLee; <https://www.facebook.com/corry.lee/>; <https://www.instagram.com/corrylee/>

Dr. Steve Lee recently retired as curator of planetary science and chairman of the department of space sciences at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS). A science advisor to the DMNS Space Odyssey exhibition, he frequently participated in the development and delivery of Museum programs—helping bring the latest discoveries in planetary and space sciences to many of the 1.4 million visitors seen at DMNS annually. He received a PhD in Planetary Geology from Cornell University in 1984.



Sci-fi/fantasy author Paul Lell currently resides in Westminster, Colorado with his family; a wife, two sons, two giant dogs, and one cat. Paul writes daily, reads everything he can, and works on refining his stories, and games at all hours. Paul writes science fiction, fantasy, and urban fantasy novels and role-playing games.

A passionate reader, Rebecca Lickiss began telling stories at an early age. She finally decided to write them down for publication, since it was better than cleaning house again. Her website at www.vikinhordemedia.com is covered with real cobwebs from neglect. Her children recently informed her that to have a real life she must have a presence on the web. So now she's got to go get a life so she can put it on the web. Are you using yours currently?



Stant Litore is the author of *Ansible*, *The Running of the Tyrannosaurs*, *The Zombie Bible*, and *Dante's Heart*. Besides science fiction and fantasy, he has written the writers' toolkits *Write Worlds Your Readers Won't Forget* and *Write Characters Your Readers Won't Forget*, as well as *Lives of Unstoppable Hope* and *Lives of Unforgetting*, and has been featured in Jeff Vandermeer's *Wonderbook: An Illustrated Guide to Creating Imaginative Fiction*. He has served as a developmental editor for Westmarch Publishing and holds a Ph.D. in English. He lives in Aurora, Colorado, with his wife and three children and is currently at work on his next novel.



Emily Mah is the author of three novels and several short stories that have appeared in markets such as *Analog: Science Fiction & Fact* and *The Dragon and the Stars* (DAW Books), an anthology of writers from the Chinese diaspora. She also writes contemporary fiction as E.M. Tippetts (12 novels) and spec fic children's books with her two sons as D.Z. Mah (15 books and counting).



Engineer/novelist/journalist/entrepreneur Wil McCarthy is a former contributing editor for WIRED magazine and science columnist for the Syfy channel (previously SciFi channel), where his popular "Lab Notes" column ran 1999-2009. A lifetime member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, he is a two-time winner of the AnLab award, has been nominated for the Nebula, Locus, Seiun, Colorado Book, Theodore Sturgeon and Philip K. Dick awards, and contributed to projects that won a Webbie, an Eppie, a Game Developers' Choice Award, and a General Excellence National Magazine Award. In addition, his imaginary world of "P2/Sorrow" was rated one of the 10 best science fiction planets of all time by Discover magazine. His short fiction has graced the pages of magazines like *Analog*, *Asimov's*, *WIRED*, and *SF Age*, and his 11 published novels include the New York Times Notable *Bloom*, Amazon.com "Best of Y2K" *The Collapsium* (an international bestseller) and upcoming *Antediluvian*. He has also written for TV and video games, appeared on The History Channel and The Science Channel, and published nonfiction in half a dozen magazines, including *WIRED*, *Discover*, *GQ*, *Popular Mechanics*, *IEEE Spectrum*, and the *Journal of Applied Polymer Science*. Previously a flight controller for Lockheed Martin Space Launch Systems and later an engineering manager for Omnitech Robotics and founder/president/CTO of RavenBrick LLC, McCarthy now writes patents for a top law firm in Dallas. He holds patents of his own in 7 countries, including 31 issued U.S. patents in the field of nanostructured optical materials.



Tone Milazzo is the author of *Picking Up the Ghost*, *The Faith Machine*, and the ESPionage Role-Playing Game. Stories have always been Tone's first love. When the first hunter told another about the one who got away, stories made us human. Stories lead to understanding. Fiction, religion, biographies, gossip, gaming, and history, it all goes into the slow cooker and out come stories. To those ends Tone's been around, professionally speaking. Marine, taxi driver, teacher, assistant to scientists, and coder. This breadth of experience has given Tone a little knowledge about a lot of things, good and bad. He lives in San Diego with his wife Melissa Milazzo (author of *Time is a Flat Circle*) and two dogs. All of whom are more capable than he is.



Award-winning filmmaker Elaine Mongeon wrote and directed the short films *Good Morning* for Warner Bros. Pictures and *Swiped to Death* for Hulu and the Sundance Institute. She also served as an associate producer on *Magic Mike XXL*. Elaine has a love for the outdoors and has been known to spend her time traversing glaciers in Canada and precision motorcycle riding. Originally from New England, she currently resides in Los Angeles. Follow her on Twitter @E_Mongeon and Instagram @elainemongeon.



Robin D. Owens has been writing longer than she cares to recall and currently has 31 books, 2 novellas, and 3 story collections to her credit. Her HeartMate series consists of 17 books. Her Luna books series included humans becoming Fae (3 books) and average American women Summoned into another world to fight monstrous evil (5 books). She is profoundly thankful to be recipient of the Romance Writers of America RITA Award, the Denver Area Science Fiction Association Lungfish Award and twice named Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers' Writer of the Year.

Fred Poutre comes from an extremely large and complicated family, which currently has 5 generations. He is great-grandfather. Fred has lived in 13 states, and has visited all but Hawaii. This is the third time that he has lived in Colorado, and the second time he lived in the Denver metro area. Fred designs card, board, and role-playing games for Cloven Fruit Games. Fred's fandom reaches across many different science-fiction and fantasy, from many different medias. His day job is a mathematics teacher.



R. Gary Raham writes both science fact and science fiction, and is a firm believer that the latter often excites a new generation of scientists to discover more of the former. Armed with degrees in biology from the University of Michigan, Raham taught high school science before pursuing careers in writing, illustration, and design. Raham has won numerous awards for his books, articles, and artwork. Raham's writing has been known to make a reader laugh and think simultaneously with no known deleterious effects. His most recent SF title is *A Twice-Dead Genius Comporting with Misunderstood Abominations*. Learn more at <https://rgaryraham.com>



Juliana Rew is a software engineer and former science and technical writer for the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. She is the author of the "Unwinding" science fiction series, as well as a Colorado historical fantasy, *The Adventures of Mountain Ma'am*. Her author website is www.julianarew.com.



Rob S. Rice has long had a fascination with the histories of war, technology, and always the sea. His interests in human activity on the sea extend to all historical periods. He has delivered papers before the American Philological Association in addition to a presentation at Annapolis and has taught successfully subjects from mythology to Roman history in the course of his teaching career. He earned his doctorate in ancient history from the University of Pennsylvania in 1994 and teaches military studies at the American Military University. His articles on the U.S. Navy appear in the respected *Reader's Guide to Military History*. Rice wrote sections of *Fighting Techniques of the Ancient World*, *Fighting Techniques of the Early Modern Era*, *The Encyclopedia of Warfare* and other non-fiction. He has three other books of historical fantasy out from The Esterhazy Press, *The Chronicles of Loquacious*, *Centaur*, *of Rhodes*; *Archival: Most Secret*; *Darkness in the Mirror* and *Acts of Heroes*. His story 'Mr. Long's School for Girls' appeared in *Different Dragons II* and 'Across the Bloodstained Sea' in *Extinct?*, both from the Wolfsinger Press. His works of historical fantasy are available from the Esterhazy Press. Visit his website at <http://www.robricebooks.com>

Venessa Robertson is an author and ex-educator and is active in the writing and historic reenactment communities. When she is not writing or homeschooling, she is managing the family's ever-growing large and small animal sanctuary ranch. She is the author of the Victorian Paranormal Arcane Adventuress series and the upcoming StarHawks futuristic military scifi series.



Matthew S. Rotundo wrote his first story—"The Elephant and the Cheese"—when he was eight years old. It was the first time he had ever filled an entire page with writing. To his young mind, that seemed like a major accomplishment. It occurred to him shortly thereafter that writing stories was what he wanted to do with his life. Matt is the author of The Prison World Revolt Series—*Petra*, *Petra Released*, and the forthcoming *Petra Rising*. His short fiction has appeared in *Alembical 3*, *Intergalactic Medicine Show*, *Writers of the Future Volume XXV*, and many others. He is a graduate of the *Odyssey Writing Workshop*. He writes science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Matt also plays guitar and has been known to sing karaoke. He lives in Omaha, Nebraska, and assures you that he has already heard all the jokes.



Fascinated by magic since pine cones could be fireballs, C.R. Rowenson (Clark) is a blogger, writing coach, developmental editor, chemist, and engineer who studies magic building like others study oil-painting. His prime directive is to help storytellers of all kinds of craft and repair the magic systems in their stories. Whether your magic system takes the form of technology for your science fiction universe, monsters for your horror story, traditional magic for your fantasy world, or something in between, Clark can help you craft, repair, and polish it into something stunning. You can visit Clark on his website to witness, fuel, or join in his obsession. <https://crowenson.com/>; [@ClarkRRowenson](https://www.facebook.com/crowenson)

Once referred to by the International Herald Tribune as 'the most well-known expatriate Thai in the world,' Somtow Sucharitkul is no longer an expatriate, since he has returned to Thailand after five decades of wandering the world. He is best known as an award-winning novelist and a composer of operas.



Born in Bangkok, Somtow grew up in Europe and was educated at Eton and Cambridge. His first career was in music and in the 1970s, his first return to Asia, he acquired a reputation as a revolutionary composer, the first to combine Thai and Western instruments in radical new sonorities. Conditions in the arts in the region at the time proved so traumatic for the young composer that he suffered a major burnout, emigrated to the United States, and reinvented himself as a novelist. His earliest novels were in the science fiction field and he soon won the John W. Campbell for Best New Writer as well as being nominated for and winning numerous other awards in the field. But science fiction was not able to contain him and he began to cross into other genres. In his 1984 novel *Vampire Junction*, he injected a new literary inventiveness into the horror genre, in the words of Robert Bloch, author of *Psycho*, 'skillfully combining the styles of Stephen King, William Burroughs, and the author of the Revelation to John.' *Vampire Junction* was voted one of the 40 all-time greatest horror books by the Horror Writers' Association, joining established classics like *Frankenstein* and *Dracula*. He has published children's books, a historical novel, and about a hundred works of short fiction.

In the 1990s Somtow became increasingly identified as a uniquely Asian writer with novels such as the semi-autobiographical *Jasmine Nights* and a series of stories noted for a peculiarly Asian brand of magic realism, such as *Dragon's Fin Soup*, which is currently being made into a film directed by Takashi Miike. He recently won the World Fantasy Award, the highest accolade given in the world of fantastic literature, for his novella *The Bird Catcher*. His seventy-plus books have sold about two million copies worldwide. He has been nominated for or won over 40 awards in the fields of science fiction, fantasy, and horror.

After becoming a Buddhist monk for a period in 2001, Somtow decided to refocus his attention on the country of his birth, founding Bangkok's first international opera company and returning to music, where he again reinvented himself, this time as a neo-Asian neo-Romantic composer. The Norwegian government commissioned his song cycle *Songs Before Dawn* for the 100th Anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize, and he composed at the request of the government of Thailand his *Requiem: In Memoriam 9/11* which was dedicated to the victims of the 9/11 tragedy. According to London's Opera magazine, "in just five years, Somtow has made Bangkok into the operatic hub of Southeast Asia." His operas on Thai themes, *Madana* and *Mae Naak*, have been well received by international critics.

Somtow has recently been awarded the 2017 Europa Cultural Achievement Award for his work in bridging eastern and western cultures. In 2020 he returned to science fiction after a twenty-year absence with *Homeworld of the Heart*, a fifth novel in the Inquestor series.



Jeanne C. Stein is the award winning, national bestselling author of the Urban Fantasy series, The Anna Strong Vampire Chronicles and the Fallen Siren Series written as S. J. Harper. She has published sixteen full length books, several novellas, two dozen or so short stories both here and in the U.K. under her own name, and ghost written five other novels.



S.M. Stirling was born in France in 1953, to Canadian parents – although his mother was born in England and grew up in Peru. After that he lived in Europe, Canada, Africa, and the US. He published his first novel (*Snowbrother*) in 1984, going full-time as a writer in 1988, the year of his marriage to Janet Moore of Milford, Massachusetts, who he met, wooed and proposed to at successive World Fantasy Conventions. In 1995 he suddenly realized that they could live anywhere and they decamped from Toronto, that large, cold, gray city on Lake Ontario, and moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico. He became an American citizen in 2004. His latest books are *Shadows of Annihilation* (March 2020), *Theater of Spies* (May 2019) and *Black Chamber* (July 2018), from Roc/Penguin Random House—a trilogy of alternate-history novels set in the 1910s and involving Teddy Roosevelt, dirigibles, sky pirates and spies. His hobbies are history, anthropology, archaeology, and travel, besides fiction—but he also cooks for fun and food. For years he also pursued the martial arts, until injuries convinced him he was becoming the most deadly cripple in history.



John E. Stith is the author of nine novels from Tor and Ace, including *Redshift Rendezvous*, a Nebula Award nominee, and *Manhattan Transfer*. *Pushback* was a Daphne du Maurier finalist. His novella, *Tiny Time Machine*, is just out from Amazing Stories.



David Lee Summers lives in Southern New Mexico, somewhere between the western and final frontiers. He is the author of a dozen novels and numerous short stories and poems. His most recent novels are the global steampunk adventure, *Owl Riders*, and a tale of space piracy, *Firebrand's Legacy*. His short stories have appeared in such magazines and anthologies as Cemetery Dance, Realms of Fantasy, and *Straight Outta Tombstone*. He's been nominated for the Science Fiction Poetry Association's Rhysling and Dwarf Stars Awards. When he's not writing, David operates telescopes at Kitt Peak National Observatory. Find David on the web at <http://www.davidleesummers.com>.

Lorelei Suzanne



Michael Swanwick has received a Hugo Award for fiction in an unprecedented five out of six consecutive years and has been honored with the Nebula, Theodore Sturgeon, and World Fantasy Awards. He has the pleasant distinction of losing more of those awards than any other writer in the history of the field. He has written ten novels, over 150 stories, and countless works of flash fiction. Last summer, Tor Books published *The Iron Dragon's Mother*, which completes a trilogy of stand-alone fantasies begun twenty-five years earlier with *The Iron Dragon's Daughter*. This summer saw the publication of *The City Under the Stars*, co-written with Gardner Dozois and finished shortly after his old friend's death. Swanwick's share of the novel is dedicated to him. Swanwick lives in Philadelphia with his wife, Marianne Porter.



Lauren C. Tefteau was born and raised on the East Coast, educated in the South, employed in the Midwest, and now lives and dreams in the Southwest. When she was younger, she poked around in the back of wardrobes, tried to walk through mirrors, and always kept an eye out for secret passages, fairy rings, and messages from aliens. She was disappointed. Now, she writes to cope with her ordinary existence. Her novel *Implanted* (2018, Angry Robot) was shortlisted for the 2019 Compton Crook award for best first SF/F/H novel. Her short fiction can be found a variety of professional and semi-pro speculative fiction magazines and anthologies. To learn more, please visit laurencteffeau.com.



Ian Tregillis, son of a bearded mountebank, is a physicist by day and writer by night. He is the author of seven critically acclaimed novels including the Milkweed Tryptych (*Bitter Seeds*, *The Coldest War*, *Necessary Evil*), *Something More than Night*, and the Alchemy Wars trilogy (*The Mechanical*, *The Rising*, *The Liberation*). His short fiction has appeared in The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction, Asimov's, Tor.com, The Best Science Fiction and Fantasy of the Year, and Best New Horror.



Catherynne M. Valente is the *New York Times* bestselling author of forty works of speculative fiction and poetry, including *Space Opera*, *The Refrigerator Monologues*, *Palimpsest*, the Orphan's Tales series, *Deathless*, *Radiance*, and the crowdfunded phenomenon *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Making* (and the four books that followed it). She is the winner of the Andre Norton, Tiptree, Sturgeon, Prix Imaginales, Eugie Foster Memorial, Mythopoeic, Rhysling, Lambda, Locus, Romantic Times' Critics Choice and Hugo Awards. She has been a finalist for the Nebula and World Fantasy Awards. She lives on an island off the coast of Maine with a small but growing menagerie of beasts, some of which are human.

<https://www.catherynnevalente.com>; <https://www.facebook.com/cmvalente>; @catvalente;
<https://www.youtube.com/user/thelearnedcat>; <https://www.instagram.com/catvalente/>



Wendy Van Camp is an author, poet, illustrator, and podcaster. Her writing blog "No Wasted Ink" (<http://nowastedink.com>) features essays about the craft of writing, poetry, flash fiction, and author interviews. Wendy's short stories and poems have appeared in science fiction magazines such as *Quantum Visions*, *Scifaikuest*, and *Far Horizons*. She is the poet and illustrator of *The Planets: a scifaiku poetry collection*, which is nominated for a 2020 Elgin Award. She is a semi-regular panelist on the Sci-fi Roundtable Podcast hosted on Anchor.



James Van Pelt is a full-time writer in western Colorado. His work has appeared in many science fiction and fantasy magazines and anthologies. He's been a finalist for a Nebula Award and been reprinted in several year's best collections. His first Young Adult novel, *Pandora's Gun*, was released from Fairwood Press in August of 2015. His latest collection, *The Experience Arcade and Other Stories* was released at the World Fantasy Convention in 2017. His next book, *The Best of James Van Pelt*, comes out in November 2020. James blogs at <http://www.jamesvanpelt.com>, and he can be found on Facebook.



Photo by Helen Sittig

Carrie Vaughn's work includes the Philip K. Dick Award winning novel *Bannerless*, the *New York Times* bestselling Kitty Norville urban fantasy series, and over twenty novels and upwards of 100 short stories, two of which have been finalists for the Hugo Award. Her most recent work includes a Kitty spin-off collection, *The Immortal Conquistador*, and a pair of novellas about Robin Hood's children—*The Ghosts of Sherwood* and *The Heirs of Locksley*. She's a contributor to the Wild Cards series of shared world superhero books edited by George R.R. Martin and a graduate of the Odyssey Fantasy Writing Workshop. An Air Force brat, she survived her nomadic childhood and managed to put down roots in Boulder, Colorado. <http://www.carrievaughn.com>;

<https://www.facebook.com/carrie.vaughn>



Steve Wahl was sold on science fiction in grade school and it stuck. Steve has been a voracious reader and fan for over half a century, a MileHiCon attendee for over 20 years, and a participant for the last few years. A calm and irreverent soul.

A former film critic and occasional filmmaker, CJ Ward is passionate about movies, craft beer, queer culture and various combinations thereof. They live in Denver with their wife, two kids and three cats. <https://www.facebook.com/cjw915>; @filmbuffcw

Meg Ward has been involved with MileHiCon for the five plus years and is currently responsible for the programming decisions. She is an avid crafter and home brewer. She has been reading SF&F for three and a half decades at this point and figures she know a little about it by now. A former San Diegan, Meg lives in Denver with her wife, two kids, and several cats.



Lawrence Watt-Evans (who also works under the pen name Nathan Archer, among others) was born in Massachusetts and grew up as one of six kids in a big old Victorian house rumored to be haunted. Both parents were science fiction readers, so he grew up reading the stuff, and decided at the age of seven or eight that he wanted to write it. The "haunted" house may be why he eventually took up horror. And when he discovered fantasy, he wanted to write that, too. He sold his first novel, *The Lure of the Basilisk*, at the age of 24 and has been a full-time writer ever since. He's now the author of about 50 novels, well over 100 short stories, over 150 published articles, a couple of volumes of non-fiction, and a few comic books, as well as the editor of one published anthology. He was an Active member of Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America from 1982 to 2006, and has served as Eastern Regional Director and treasurer. He was nominated for the 1987 Nebula Award for short story. He received the Hugo Award for best short story in 1988, for "Why I Left Harry's All-Night Hamburgers." Visit him on The Misenchanted Page website, <http://www.watt-evans.com/>



Ted Weber has pursued writing since childhood, and learned filmmaking and screenwriting in college, along with a little bit of physics. His first published novel was a near-future cyberpunk thriller titled *Sleep State Interrupt* (See Sharp Press). It was a finalist for the 2017 Compton Crook award for best first science fiction, fantasy, or horror novel. The first sequel, *The Wrath of Leviathan*, was published in 2018, and the final book, *Zero-Day Rising*, is coming out Oct. 1, 2020. He has other books on the way as well. He is a member of the Maryland Writers Association, and helps run writing workshops and critique groups. By day, he works as a climate adaptation analyst, and has had a number of scientific papers and book chapters published. He lives in Annapolis, Maryland, with his wife Karen. He enjoys traveling and has visited all seven continents. For book samples, short stories, and more, visit <https://www.tcweber.com/>



John Wilker is a science fiction author living in Denver, CO. His *Space Rogues* series continues into its 7th book this year and he's launching a new space opera adventure in early 2021!



Walter Jon Williams is an award-winning author who has been listed on the best-seller lists of *The New York Times* and *The Times* of London. He is the author of twenty-seven novels and four collections of short fiction. Walter has also written for comics, the screen, and for television, and has worked in the gaming field. He was a writer for the alternate reality game *Last Call Poker*, and has scripted the mega-hit *Spore*. His next novel, *Fleet Elements*, will appear in December, along with *The Best of Walter Jon Williams*, a lavishly illustrated collection.



Connie Willis is the author of *Crosstalk*, *Blackout/All Clear*, *Doomsday Book*, *To Say Nothing of the Dog*, *Bellwether*, *Passage*, *Remake*, *Fire Watch*, *Impossible Things*, and *Miracle and other Christmas Stories*. *The Best of Connie Willis* was published in 2014. With Cynthia Felice, she co-wrote *Water Witch*, *Light Raid*, and *Promised Land*. She now has won 11 Hugos and seven Nebulas, including the Hugo and Nebula for best novel in 2011 for *Blackout/All Clear*, which also won the Locus Award for best novel. She was the first author to win Hugos and Nebulas in all four fiction categories, as well as winning the most Nebula Awards of any SF writer. *Inside Job*, *D.A.*, and *The Winds of Marble Arch and Other Stories* (a short story collection) are out from Subterranean Press, which also published *All About Emily*, one of her Christmas novellas, and will soon be publishing another Christmas novella, *Take a Look at the Five and Ten*. Connie was named a Grand Master in 2012. Her latest obsession is *Primeval*—the best show on television! Connie lives with her husband, Courtney (Dr. Science), two cats that are the spawn of Satan and an adorable bulldog.



Dr. Courtney Willis (aka Dr. Science) is a physics professor (sort of retired) from the University of Northern Colorado. Famous at MileHiCon for his science demonstrations, he's also fascinated with solar eclipses and debunking hollow earth theories. He builds stereo speakers, quilts, and collects slide rules and antique sewing machines, which means he'll be all set for the zombie apocalypse since neither require electricity.

Daniel A. Willis writes both fiction and nonfiction. In his historical works, he describes the world as it was. In his fantasy novels, he envisions it as it could be. A native of Ohio, Mr. Willis has called Colorado home for three decades. Additionally, he is the owner of D.X. Varos, Ltd., a small press publisher of exquisite speculative fiction. <https://www.danielawillis.com/>; <https://www.facebook.com/DanielAWillistheauthor>



With degrees in communications, psychology and translation, Lyn Worthen "translates geek-speak into English" in her day job, edits for indie fiction authors, and builds award-winning short fiction anthologies in her spare time. Find her at www.camdenparkpress.com. Lyn also writes mystery/thriller/suspense stories as Lauryn Christopher, with her short fiction appearing in a variety of anthologies, and her "Hit Lady for Hire" series. Learn more about Lauryn at www.laurynchristopher.com.



Ka Chun Yu is an astronomer at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, which he joined in 2001 as part of a team tasked to create planetarium software to visualize the known universe. Currently, he gives numerous talks to the public, advises on science content in permanent and temporary exhibits, and has helped produce movies and visualizations for digital planetariums. His research interests include studying how to teach astronomy with digital planetariums, and astronomical research involving outflows from protostars and young star clusters. For the last ten years, he has given talks on the science behind science fiction films in the annual Sci-Fi Film Series hosted by DMNS and the Denver Film Society. He is one of the authors of an upcoming book based on films screened and discussed in the festival.



Glen Zipper produced the Oscar-winning documentary *Undefeated*, and the hit Netflix series *Dogs*. Born in New York City and raised in Fort Lee, NJ, Glen currently resides in Los Angeles, where he enjoys motorcycle riding and stopping to pet every dog he sees. Follow him on Twitter @Zipper and Instagram @glenzipper.

MileHiCon 52 Virtual Program Schedule

Includes live Zoom panels and pre-recorded programs, which debuted at the listed times and were subsequently available on the MileHiCon YouTube channel. Programs were tagged by type (live/pre-recorded), topic and GOH involvement. (Note: Many programs—but not all—can still be viewed on YouTube.)

Friday, October 23, 2020

Disposable Characters
10:00 AM-11:00 AM

Live/Writing

CJ Ward (M), Alex Acks, Claire Eddy, Matthew Rotundo, Jeanne Stein

Women in refrigerators and lesbians can't find love without dying—there are a lot of tropes about characters being disposable. Join our panelists to discuss the difference between killing off a character to motivate the plot or move it along versus just throwing one away.

Writing Effective Query Letters
10:30 AM-11:30 AM

Live/Writing/GOH

Emily Mah (M), Betsy Dornbusch, James Hunter, Mur Lafferty, Robert S. Rice

Query letters—they can seem to be an arcane form of magic that one must conquer to find the perfect home for your book. Join our panelists as they give their tips and tricks for writing an effective query letter.

- Pandemics
10:30 AM-11:30 AM
John Barnes, Carina Bissett, Michael Swanwick
Three authors read their own unique takes on stories set in pandemics.
- Pre-Recorded Reading
- The Price of Magic
11:00 AM-12:00 PM
MH Bonham (M), Carol Berg/Cate Glass, Ian Tregillis, Connie Willis, Lyn Worthen/Lauryn Christopher
All things have a price, including magic. Join our panelists as they discuss what the price of magic is, can be, or should be and the authors and creators who have handled this both well and badly.
- Live/Writing/General SF&F/Horror
- Zap! Lightning!
11:30 AM-12:30 PM
Corry Lee
Beautiful and deadly, lightning has long amazed and awed. But how does it work? What would happen if you were struck by lightning? Does lightning occur on other planets? Can you make your own lightning? In this interactive talk with a Ph.D. physicist, discover the science of lightning. No science background necessary!
- Pre-Recorded/Science
- Alternate Food Services
11:30 AM-12:30 PM
Shannon Lawrence (M), Rebecca Lee, Fred Poutre, Vennessa Robertson, Lauren Teffeu
Crickets? Lab grown meat? What will the food sources of the future look like, and what are the alternatives to the traditional meat and potatoes now.
- Live/Science
- Machete or Scalpel: Editing Your Work
12:00 PM-1:00 PM
Kit Campbell (M), Alex Acks, Richard Friesen, Robin Owens, C.R. Rowenson
Whether it's with surgical precision or whacking through the jungle of your words, you should choose your editing tools carefully. Come learn about the pros and cons of how you edit your work.
- Live/Writing
- YA For Everyone
12:00 PM-1:00 PM
Shannon Lawrence, Juli Rew
YA—not just for kids! Come enjoy readings of YA aimed at all ages.
- Pre-Recorded Reading
- Cyberpunk, Steampunk, & Alt History
12:30 PM-1:30 PM
David Summers, Ian Tregillis, Ted Weber
From Steampunk to Cyberpunk with a dash of Alt History, enjoy three unique readings from our authors.
- Pre-Recorded Reading
- Cool Podcasts You Might Love
12:30 PM-1:30 PM
CJ Ward (M), Tim Anderson, Cory Doctorow, Patrick Hester, Wendy Van Camp
Listened to all of your usual podcasts? Bored by your usuals? Never tried a podcast? Want something new? Our panelists will suggest cool podcasts you just might love!
- Live/GOH/General SF&F/Horror
- To "See" New Earths
1:00 PM-2:00 PM
Join author/astronomer David Lee Summers as he talks about the NEID and TESS missions and learn a lot more about Kitt's Peak Observatory.
- Pre-Recorded/Science
- Kaffeeklatsch with Alan Pollack
1:00 PM-2:00 PM
Join MHC 52 Artist GOH Alan Pollack for a small group Zoom conversation.
- Live/Kaffeeklatsch-Tea/GOH
- Planning Your Series
1:00 PM-2:00 PM
Jeffe Kennedy (M), Corry Lee, Juli Rew, Ted Weber, Walter Jon Williams
You have an idea—and it'd make a great trilogy, or longer! Now what? Join our panelists as they discuss how to successfully plan and plot a series that your readers will be excited about and continue to be excited about—meaning you do actually get to write book 4 (or 11).
- Live/Writing
- Plotting, Pantsing, and In-between
1:30-2:30 PM
MH Bonham (M), Carol Berg/Cate Glass, David Boop, Matthew Rotundo, Steve Rasnic Tem
Some like to plot, some fly by the seat of their pants, some try for a middle ground. Come hear these authors discuss how they handle plotting (or not!) their novels and stories.
- Live/Writing

<p>Weird Westerns 1:30 PM-2:30 PM David Boop, Barbara Hambly Two unique takes on what makes westerns "weird" and unusual.</p>	<p>Pre-Recorded Reading</p>
<p>God Save The Other Queen 2:00 PM-3:00 PM Danyda Feldman (M), Erika Frensley, Robert S. Rice, S.M. Stirling, Carrie Vaughn Alternate Brittanias range from Regency to steampunk to Kit Marlowe surviving assassination and beyond—why do we love them and who does them well. Let's sip tea and talk all things Anglophilia of the alternate history type.</p>	<p>Live/General SF&F/Horror</p>
<p>Kaffeeklatsch with Wil McCarthy 2:30 PM-3:30 PM Join former MHC toastmaster Wil McCarthy for a small group Zoom conversation.</p>	<p>Live/Kaffeeklatsch-Tea</p>
<p>Early Computer Animation 2:30 PM-3:30 PM Ed Kramer Join Ed Kramer, The Wizard of Hollywood, for a look at the early history of computer animation. Sure to thrill all ages.</p>	<p>Live/Computing-Tech</p>
<p>Hour with Steve Rasnic Tem 3:00 PM-4:00 PM Stace Johnson (M), Steve Rasnic Tem Join author and MHC 52 Toastmaster Steve Rasnic Tem as he is interviewed by local author Stace Johnson. Participate in a live Q&A.</p>	<p>Live/GOH</p>
<p>Military SF 3:00 PM-4:00 PM Jonathan Brazee, Vennessa Robertson, S.M. Stirling Join three MileHiCon regulars for three very different takes on military SF&F.</p>	<p>Pre-Recorded Reading</p>
<p>How to Write Good SF&F Comedy 3:30 PM-4:30 PM MH Bonham (M), Richard Friesen, Van Aaron Hughes, Connie Willis Writing comedy of any sort is a difficult task. Throw in a dash of fantasy, science fiction, or horror and you add a whole new dimension. Join our panelists as they talk about how to write good SF&F comedy effectively.</p>	<p>Live/Writing</p>
<p>Kaffeeklatsch with Walter Jon Williams 4:00 PM-5:00 PM Join author and former MHC toastmaster Walter Jon Williams for a small group Zoom conversation.</p>	<p>Live/Kaffeeklatsch-Tea</p>
<p>America as She Isn't 4:00 PM-5:00 PM James Van Pelt (M), John Barnes, Dana Bell, Cory Doctorow, S.M. Stirling What is the fascination with alternate Americas? From the dystopias of <i>The Hunger Games</i> and <i>The Man in the High Castle</i> to more positive depictions of steampunk technology and presidents who are not assassinated, we love to imagine America as She Isn't now. Join our panelists in exploring the many variations of our nation.</p>	<p>Live/General SF&F/Horror/GOH</p>
<p>Ethics and Art 4:30 PM-5:30 PM Christopher Barili (M), Amy Armstrong, Chaz Kemp, Alan Pollack, Wendy Van Camp What are the ethics of art? How do you straddle the line between pushing the envelope and not being objectionable for the sake of objectionable? Join our panel as they discuss what the ethics of art are, and how they work within them.</p>	<p>Live/GOH/Art</p>
<p>Space Opera 4:30 PM-11 09 PM Elaine Mongeon, S.P. Somtow, Catherynne Valente, Carrie Vaughn Join three former MHC GOHs and a debut author new to MileHiCon for their unique takes on Space Opera.</p>	<p>Pre-Recorded/Reading</p>
<p>Worldbuilding for the Page, Screen, and Game 5:00 PM-6:00 PM Daniel Dvorkin (M), John Barnes, Stant Litore, Matthew Rotundo, Steve Wahl How do you build worlds? As it turns out, there is significant overlap between writing worlds for the page, screen, or for a game. Join our panelists for their worldbuilding tips and tricks.</p>	<p>Live/Writing/General SF&F/Horror/Gaming</p>
<p>Open Filking 5:30 PM-8:00 PM Open Filking via Zoom. All are welcome.</p>	<p>Live</p>

The Science in Science Fiction Movies
5:30 PM-6:30 PM
Live/Science
Vincent Piturro (M), Dr. Ka Chun Yu, Joe Sertich, Steve Lee
Join three Denver Museum of Nature scientists and their co-author, a Metropolitan State University of Denver film professor, for a look at three science fiction movies and the science within.

Opening Ceremonies
6:00 PM-7:00 PM
Live/GOH
Cory Doctorow, Mur Lafferty, Steve Rasnic Tem, Alan Pollack, Rebecca Roanhorse
Join our Guests of Honor for our opening ceremonies. Hear from them what excites them about the convention, and what to look forward to.

Horror & Creepypasta
6:00 PM-7:00 PM
Pre-Recorded/Reading
Amy Armstrong, Travis Heermann
Join local Denver authors Amy Armstrong and Travis Heermann for two readings focused on the darker side of things.

Saturday, October 24, 2020

Animals
10:00 AM-11:00 AM
Pre-Recorded/Reading
Jane Bigelow, Marie DesJardin, Robert S. Rice
Animals? Animals! Animals. Join three favorite MHC authors as they bring their own perspective on animals in their readings.

Real Combat: Fantasy vs Real Fighting
10:00 AM-11:00 AM
Live/GOH/Writing
Daniel Dvorkin (M), Jonathan Brazee, Travis Heermann, Mur Lafferty, Vennessa Robertson
From *The Princess Bride* and its actual fencing terms to much more handwavy descriptions of combat—there can be both a connection and a disconnect between how fighting is described in books vs how it plays out in real life. Join our panelists as they talk about how to write solid combat.

Putting the Epic in Epic Fantasy
10:30 AM-11:30 AM
Live/GOH/Writing
Paul Lell (M), Barbara Hambly, Rebecca Roanhorse, S.P. Somtow, Michael Swanwick
What makes an epic fantasy epic? Is it the setting? The characters? The scope of the plot? Join our panelists as they talk about putting the epic into epic fantasy.

My First Sale
10:30 AM-11:30 AM
Pre-Recorded/Reading
S.A. Bradley, Stace Johnson, Wendy Van Camp
Join three authors (one new to MileHiCon) as they read from their first sales.

Kaffeeklatsch with Cory Doctorow
10:30 AM-11:30 AM
Live/Kaffeeklatsch-Tea/GOH
Join MHC 52 Author GOH Cory Doctorow for a small group Zoom session.

Mars Exploration Update
11:00 AM-12:30 PM
Live/Science
Steve Lee
Join Denver Museum of Nature & Science's Dr. Steve Lee for an update on all things Mars exploration.

The Lucy Mission to Jupiter
11:30 AM-12:30 PM
Pre-Recorded/Science
Carly Howett
Join SWRI's Dr. Carly Howett for her presentation on the Lucy Mission to Jupiter.

Kaffeeklatsch with Jane Lindskold
11:30 AM-12:30 PM
Live/Kaffeeklatsch-Tea
Join author and former MHC GOH Jane Lindskold for a small group Zoom discussion.

Future Technical Disruptions
11:30 AM-12:30 PM
Live/Science/Computing-Tech
Arlen Feldman (M), Steve Gaalema, Jim Gunderson, J.R.H. Lawless, Wil McCarthy
The 1980s through now have seen mass technical disruption—what do the next 20-30 years hold for us? What sort of future tech will help our lives, and what will disrupt it in new and unanticipated ways?

Hour with Mur Lafferty 12:00 PM-1:00 PM Join MHC 52 author GOH Mur Lafferty for an hour-long panel during which she may have anything at all up her sleeve.	Live/GOH
Unlikely Heroes 12:00 PM-1:00 PM MH Bonham, Richard Friesen From crones to farmboys—heroes come in all shapes and sizes. Hear two readings about unlikely heroes.	Pre-Recorded/Reading
Artistic Reference: Use it! 12:30 PM-1:30 PM Rebecca Lee (M), S.A. Bradley, Jane Bigelow, Alan Pollack, Fred Poutre From life drawing references, to photos, to doing your research on the culture and history of an area, artistic reference comes in all forms. Hear from our panelists on why using your references is a good thing.	Live/Art/Writing
Strong Women 1:00 PM-2:00 PM Brenda Hardwick, Mur Lafferty, Lyn Worthen/Lauryn Christopher Join three fantastic authors as they read their favorite scenes and stories of Strong Women—may we be them, may we know them, may we raise them.	Pre-Recorded/Reading
Kaffeeklatsch with Carrie Vaughn 1:00 PM-2:00 PM Join author and former MHC toastmaster Carrie Vaughn for a small group Zoom discussion.	Live/Kaffeeklatsch-Tea
Building SF&F Mythologies 1:00 PM-2:00 PM Stant Litore (M), Carol Berg/Cate Glass, Carina Bissett, Ian Brazee-Cannon, Jane Lindskold How does one build a believable mythology? Join our panelists as they discuss tips and tricks for building your own SF&F mythology.	Live/Writing
Year in Science 1:30 PM-2:30 PM Courtney Willis (M), Wil McCarthy, David Summers, Steve Wahl, Dr. Ka Chun Yu What a year 2020 has been to date! Join our panel of experts to talk all things science from the past year.	Live/Science
Dystopian 1:30 PM-2:30 PM David Dvorkin, Robin Owens, John Stith Join our authors for their takes on dystopias—and see how you feel about the world around you afterwards.	Pre-Recorded Reading
Kaffeeklatsch with Barbara Hambly 1:30 PM-2:30 PM Join author and former MHC GOH Barbara Hambly for a small group Zoom discussion.	Live/Kaffeeklatsch-Tea
Keeping It Real People 2:00 PM-3:00 PM S.M. Stirling (M), Reese Hogan, Junebug!, James Van Pelt, Lawrence Watt-Evans Your least favorite teacher, your neighbor, your mother-in-law, that one boss you hated—authors have been basing characters on real people forever. How do you do it carefully and tastefully? And how does this differ from the practice of Tuckerization? Join our panelists to find out.	Live/Writing
Amazon KDU & Other Publishing Platforms 2:30 PM-3:30 PM Shannon Lawrence (M), Cory Doctorow, Daniel Willis, Brenda Hardwick, Jim Henderson There are a million ways to self-publish these days. From giants like Amazon to going it your own, what makes the most sense and what are the downsides to each? Join our panelists as they discuss.	Live/Writing/GOH
Hour with Rebecca Roanhorse 3:00 PM-4:00 PM Join author and MHC 52 GOH Rebecca Roanhorse for a reading and Q&A session.	Live/GOH
Urban Fantasy 3:00 PM-4:00 PM Dana Bell, Jeffe Kennedy, Tone Milazzo Join our authors as they read their favorite Urban Fantasy pieces.	Pre-Recorded Reading
Kaffeeklatsch with Michael Swanwick 3:00 PM-4:00 PM Join author and former MHC GOH Michael Swanwick for a small group Zoom discussion.	Live/Kaffeeklatsch-Tea

Aliens, but Make Them Believable
3:30 PM-4:30 PM
Live/Writing
Paul Lell (M), Van Aaron Hughes, Stant Litore, R. Gary Raham, Catherynne Valente
What makes an alien believable in this day and age? Or rather, what throws you out of the story because you just can't accept it? Join our panelists as they talk aliens and how to make them believable.

Open Filking
4:00 PM-8:00 PM
Live
Open Filking via Zoom. All are welcome.

SF&F/H in Theater
4:00 PM-5:00 PM
Live/General SF&F/Horror
Danyda Feldman (M), John Barnes, William Allan Ritch, Carrie Vaughn
Join William Allan Ritch from the Atlanta Radio Theater Company in a panel discussion with local authors and actors about SF&F and horror in theater.

Hour with Cory Doctorow
4:30 PM-5:30 PM
Live/GOH
Join MHC 52 author GOH Cory Doctorow for an hour of whatever he might have up his sleeve—a reading? a presentation? a Q&A? Come and find out.

There's Kissing in My SF&F
4:30 PM-5:30 PM
Pre-Recorded/Reading
Stant Litore, Emily Mah, James Van Pelt
You got your romance in my SF&F! You got your SF&F in my romance! Let's enjoy some "kissing" readings together.

Horseman of The Hollow
5:00 PM-6:00 PM
Pre-Recorded/General SF&F/Horror
Presented by The Atlanta Radio Theatre. *The Horseman of the Hollow* by Kelley S. Ceccato tells the story of Ichabod Crane's niece, Hepzibah, who, after the Civil War, leaves her home in Connecticut to take a position as a school teacher in a small, rural town in Georgia. There she finds another legend about a night-riding horseman seeking his head. But this story rides on a very different path.
It was originally performed live in 2011 at the Academy Theatre as part of the "Ride Across America," which consisted of four separate audio theatre troupes, in four different areas of America, telling their own versions of the classic story, one after another from their host cities.

Story Time with Miss Danyda
5:30 PM-6:30 PM
Live
Danyda Feldman
Join Miss Danyda, beloved storyteller of MileHiCon, for stories for the young and the young at heart.

Masquerade
6:00 PM-7:00 PM
Live
Rose Beetem, CJ Ward – with judges Carrie Vaughn, Cordelia Willis
It's virtual, but we're still having our usual Masquerade. Come see videos and still photos of our costume submissions.

Note: After the masquerade video, we had a live Zoom session with our virtual masquerade judges, Carrie Vaughn and Cordelia Willis, and one of our masquerade winners, Jessica Coyle (*Handmaid's Tale*) was online and was able to join in a cool costuming discussion. Images of contestants can be seen after the program listings.

Delicious Villainy
6:00 PM-7:00 PM
Pre-Recorded/Reading
Carol Berg/Cate Glass, Wil McCarthy, Matthew Rotundo
Join three of our favorite authors for readings that celebrate the deliciousness of villainy.

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Aliens
10:00 AM-11:00 AM
Pre-Recorded Reading
F.P. Dorchak, Van Aaron Hughes, R. Gary Raham
Join three MHC favorites for a reading about Aliens of all types.

Kaffeeklatsch with Rebecca Roanhorse
10:00 AM-11:00 AM
Live/GOH
Join MHC 52 author GOH Rebecca Roanhorse for a small group Zoom conversation.

- My Favorite Writing Tools Live/Writing
 10:00 AM-11:00 AM
 Emily Mah (M), Betsy Dornbusch, Tone Milazzo, John Stith, James Van Pelt
 There are an absolute plethora of writing tools available, which makes it nearly impossible to decide what might work for you. Join our panelists as they discuss what their favorite writing tools are and why.
- Hour with Alan Pollack Live/GOH
 10:30 AM-11:30 AM
 Join MHC 52 artist GOH Alan Pollack for an hour of whatever he has up his sleeve. Sure to delight and astonish.
- GM 101: How to Be a Good GM Live/Gaming
 11:00 AM-12:00 PM
 Dee Beetem (M), Stace Johnson, Chaz Kemp, Paul Lell, Steve Wahl
 Learn how to be the GM that your players crave, and how to be a GM that makes yourself happy.
- Queer SF&F Pre-Recorded/Reading
 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
 Alex Acks, Reese Hogan, J.R.H. Lawless
 Join our authors for three readings by LGBTQIA+ identified authors or with LGBTQIA+ characters
- Kaffeeklatsch with John Stith Live/Kaffeeklatsch-Tea
 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
 Join author and former MHC toastmaster John Stith for a small group discussion over Zoom.
- Bitcoin and Other Cryptocurrencies Live/Computing-Tech/GOH
 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
 Arlen Feldman (M), Tim Anderson, Cory Doctorow, Emily Mah
 Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies continue to captivate the imagination and spark debate. Join our panelists as they talk the pros and cons—from security to fluidity to climate impact and beyond,
- Authors and Social Media Live/General SF&F/Horror
 12:00 PM-1:00 PM
 Lorelei Suzanne (M), Jo Fontana, Mur Lafferty, Steve Rasnic Tem, John Wilker
 Social media can be both a blessing and a curse. Join our panel to discuss how to be a good social media citizen and avoid being a troll.
- Editing for Yourself and Others Live/Writing
 12:30 PM-1:30 PM
 Christopher Barilli (M), Fleur Bradley, Marie DesJardin, David Dvorkin
 Is it different editing for yourself versus editing for other people? And if so, how? Join our panelists as they discuss the differences and similarities and their experiences doing both.
- Lone Wolves and Other Renegades Pre-Recorded Reading
 1:00 PM-2:00 PM
 Lou Berger, Paul Lell, Steve Wahl
 There's something in the mystery of the lone wolf or the renegade—join our authors as they read excerpts from their works and try to demystify them.
- Kaffeeklatsch with Mur Lafferty Live/Kaffeeklatsch-Tea
 1:00 PM-2:00 PM
 Join MHC 52 author GOH Mur Lafferty for a small group Zoom conversation.
- Kaffeeklatsch with Catherynne Valente Live/Kaffeeklatsch-Tea
 1:00 PM-2:00 PM
 Join author and former MHC GOH Catherynne Valente for a small group Zoom conversation.
- Modern Age of Poetry Live General SF&F/Horror
 1:00 PM-2:00 PM
 Robert S. Rice (M), Dana Bell, Carina Bissett, Steve Wahl, Wendy Van Camp
 Poetry seems to be undergoing a resurgence or a renaissance, including in SF&F/Horror. Join our panelists as they discuss what and who is up and coming and their thoughts on the resurgence.
- Creative Couples Live/GOH/Art/Writing/General SF&F/Horror
 1:30 PM-2:30 PM
 Rebecca Lickiss (M), Carolyn Kay, Elaine Mongeon, Alan Pollack, Glen Zipper
 What is it like to be one half of a pair of creatives? Join our panelists as they discuss their experiences both working with their partners in creative endeavors and working on separate creative endeavors and how they have balanced their creative lives and careers.

- Ed Bryant Memorial Panel Live/General SF&F/Horror
 2:00 PM-3:00 PM
 Stace Johnson (M)
 Join us as we celebrate the life and works of Ed Bryant, including a newly released compendium of his works. Ed Bryant was a staple of MileHiCon and the Denver SF&F literary scene for many years. Our literacy auction is named in memory of his many good deeds.
- Setting As Character Pre-Recorded Reading
 2:30 PM-3:30 PM
 Lauren Teffeau, Steve Rasnic Tem, Walter Jon Williams
 From a windswept planet of alien vistas to the Grand Canyon, settings can be just as much of a character in a tale as the characters themselves. Hear three takes on settings that are characters of their own.
- Kaffeeklatsch with Connie and Courtney Willis Live/Kaffeeklatsch-Tea
 2:30 PM-3:30 PM
 Join former MHC GOH and SWFA Grandmaster Connie Willis and former MHC toastmaster and Professor Emeritus Courtney "Dr. Science" Willis for a small group Zoom discussion.
- Versions of the Afterlife Live General SF&F/Horror
 2:30 PM-3:30 PM
 Rose Beetem (M), F.P. Dorchak, Steve Wahl, Emily Mah, Jeanne Stein
 The afterlife comes in all shapes and forms depending on who's doing the writing. Our panelists will discuss the versions they have seen done well (and not so well) and the ways these have been influenced over the years by popular beliefs and the shifting tides of time.
- Closing Ceremonies & GOH Remarks Live/GOH
 3:00 PM-4:00 PM
 Meg Ward, Cory Doctorow, Mur Lafferty, Alan Pollack, Rebecca Roanhorse, Steve Rasnic Tem, Linda Nelson
 Join us for our closing ceremonies of the convention. We'll hear one last time from our Guests of Honor, and possibly hear who to look forward to at MHC 53.
- Computers, AI, and (Deserved?) Paranoia Live/Computing-Tech
 3:30 PM-4:30 PM
 Arlen Feldman, Amy Armstrong, Dr. Andrew Burt, Jim Henderson, Lauren Teffeau
 Is it really paranoia when your devices are listening to you and Facebook seems to track your every web search? Let's talk about AI, computers, tech, Silicon Valley, and if it really is paranoia to be concerned about the ways it can all go wrong.
- Readings From New Releases Pre-Recorded/Reading/GOH
 4:00 PM-5:00 PM
 Connie Willis, Cory Doctorow
 Past MHC GOH Connie Willis and current MHC author GOH Cory Doctorow will each read from their newest release.
- Creatives Parenting Live/General SF&F/Horror/Writing/Art/Gaming
 4:00 PM-5:00 PM
 Rebecca Lickiss (M), Lou Berger, David Dvorkin, James Van Pelt
 Many of us now understand the struggle of a job plus kids virtually schooling at the same time. Now, throw in the need to pursue creative endeavors—it might get a little interesting. Join our panel as they discuss how their parenting has shaped their creative careers and their creative careers have shaped their parenting.
- Orchids and Onions Live
 4:30 PM-5:30 PM
 Meg Ward (M), Arlen Feldman, Linda Nelson
 Join convention chair Linda Nelson, Wizard of the Zoom Arlen Feldman, and programming director Meg Ward for a chance to tell us what went well and what did not.

Avistrum School of Sorcery

While the usual onsite wizardly fun couldn't occur this year, a six-part audio adventure, *Tales from Avistrum: Titan's Vengeance*, debuted at the end of September, and they offered several virtual courses in conjunction with MileHiCon 52 Virtual.

Avistrum School of Sorcery Programming



Saturday, Oct 24

1:00-2:00 pm: Runes with Jasper Glass

Join Head Boy Jasper Glass in Runes class! Students will be learning how to use and interpret Elder Futhark Runes for fortune bringing and divination purposes! Students should bring 2-3 sheets of loose, blank paper and as many different colors of writing instruments as they would like to make their own rune "stones!" Scissors are optional.

3:00-4:00 pm: Quidditch with Joleen Latrova

Ever ponder on the safety precautions regarding Quidditch gear, or lack thereof? Join Coach Latrova as she teaches about Quidditch safety procedures, and how the wizarding world can improve their processes to keep our favorite players safe and sound!

Sunday, Oct 25

1:00-2:00 pm: DADA/Astronomy with Polonius Aberfoyle and Evie Bradford

Join us for some out-of-this-world fun! Did you know there are monsters in the sky? We're going to talk about a few of our favorite constellations, the myths behind them, and what to do if you ever come face-to-face with them in the wild. Come join our new Astronomy professor, Evie Bradford, as she teams up with Polonius Aberfoyle, our Defense Against the Dark Arts professor, to talk about these ancient beasts!

3:00-4:00 pm: Anthomancy with Ellie Bumble and Storm Skovsgaard

Do you have some extra thyme? Headgirl Ellie Bumble invites you to learn about the unbeleafable practice of Anthromancy. An ancient study of divination through the observation of living plants is a herbologist's dream. What better class to teach in the living room of Storm Skovsgaard, an avid herbologist? It's kind of a big dill. Hone your love of house plants and knowledge of nature with some classic divination!

Masquerade/Cosplay Contest

While it seemed for a while that there wouldn't be a masquerade/cosplay contest for MileHiCon 52, that didn't happen and we made the move to a virtual format. If you would like to watch the masquerade, complete with an impromptu costuming discussion with our judges and one of the contestants, it is still up on the MileHiCon YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOveuLRiVgo>

Following are images our contestants submitted and CJ Ward (all hail their technical wizardry!) compiled into the slideshow.



Wendy Corduroy

- Gravity Falls
- Closet Cosplay assembled by Audrey Ward
- Photography by CJ Ward



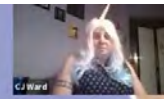
Rocky

- Paw Patrol
- The vest was designed and constructed by Jyn Clarizio
- Photography by Jyn Clarizio



Rubble

- Paw Patrol
- The vest was designed and constructed by Jyn Clarizio
- Photography by Jyn Clarizio



Mermaid

- Imagined & designed by Sarah Clarizio
- Constructed by Jyn Clarizio
- Photography by Jyn Clarizio

ERRATA: Sarah Clarizio/Mermaid and Francesca Clarizio/Moon Princess, transposed in the submission and video, are corrected here.



Moon Princess

- Imagined by Francesca Clarizio
- Designed by Francesca Clarizio & Jyn Clarizio
- Constructed by Jyn Clarizio
- Photography by Jyn Clarizio



Skeksis

- The Dark Crystal
- Costume by Morgan Freasier
- Photo by Melisa Rock



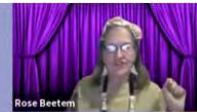
Fun With Floof

- Original steampunk-style costume
- Blouse, skirt, and hat made by Nate Leyba



Handmaid

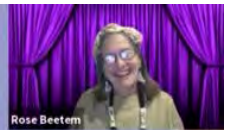
- The Handmaid's Tale
- Costume by Jessica Coyle
- Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* is a gripping vision of our society overturned by a theocratic revolution. Handmaids are women whose entire existence is to birth children for Gilead's elite; they are forbidden from reading or writing, and can only socialize at religious events and their once-a-day grocery trip. Handmaids dress from head-to-toe in red, and they wear white wings to block their view of the world.
- Visually based on *The Handmaid's Tale* television series on Hulu.
- Photography by Craig Chrissinger
- Audio is an excerpt from *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and read by Jessica Coyle





Ysera

- World of Warcraft
- Costume by Avera Cosplay
- 7 months and over 400 hours to make, this costume has 119 worbla roses and leaves, Over 700 foam scales, 50 yards of Thibra vines and two carvings of Ysera the dragon. From the top the horns to the tip of the boots, texture was given to the foam using a wood burner and foam clay. Carving horn texture, leaf patterns, wood patterns and scales. Crystal worbla was used for hundreds of gems and defuses hundreds of LED's. Over 150 hours of embroidery on the hip panels. 2 hours of make-up and a custom wig, and you have Ysera.
- Tonya Barnes Photography



Featured judges: Carrie Vaughn and Cordelia Willis



Masquerade/Cosplay Awards

Because we were virtual, we were able to vote on the Audience Favorite ... which went to Avera Cosplay as Ysera from World of Warcraft.

Our judges awarded

Best Original Design to Nate Leyba/Fun with Floof and Best of Show to Avera Cosplay as Ysera from World of Warcraft.

A worthy and worthwhile effort and showing.

Congratulations and thanks to all the contestants, our judges and CJ's technical artistry!

The Ed Bryant Literacy Auction

Instead of being run partly during the masquerade judging and partly after the masquerade, The Ed Bryant Literacy Auction was held online, through the MileHiCon Facebook page. This year's auction benefited the Literacy Coalition of Colorado. The total was \$1942, not far off what we receive in a "live" auction year. MileHiCon's final donation was \$2000 to the charity, since there were some contributions still unattributed at the time and rounding up has become something of a tradition.

Art Show & Vendors Room

Both the art show and vendors room were done virtually. I did wander through the art show galleries at least once (which is often about as often as I manage IRL, what with running around to panels and the ever-popular distracted by seeing folks I only run into once a year). I haven't heard how the art show did, though I am afraid not as good as usual.

The vendors room was also virtual, and the main thing I did there was buy several books from The Book Bar. We had worked out a special deal with them and a number of the 'attending' authors and Guests of Honor. Using a piece of Alan Pollack's art, we created a MileHiCon 52 bookplate. Small quantities were sent to the authors, who signed and returned them to be dropped off at the Book Bar. If you bought books by a participating author during the MHC window (including a day or two either side), they would mail them to you with a signed bookplate (while supplies lasted). Or you could pick them up, if like me, you were local.

Thanks to our participating authors:

Cory Doctorow

Mur Lafferty

Rebecca Roanhorse

Steve Rasnic Tem

John Barnes

Carol Berg

Travis Heermann

Jeffe Kennedy

Robin Owens

Jeanne Stein

John Stith

David Lee Summers

Carrie Vaughn

James Van Pelt

Lawrence Watt-Evans

Connie Willis

Pre-MileHiCon Facebook Page Posts



[Apr 20](#)

Dear MileHiCon Community, As the COVID-19 evolves, our thoughts are with you during these turbulent times. We are looking at the possibility that MileHiCon 52 may go virtual. Please let us know your opinions we will be making a decision in the next month. Thank you, MHC Con Com.

[Jun 11](#)

MILEHICON 52 goes VIRTUAL In response to the impact of the COVID19 virus and the economic stress on everyone at these times, the MileHiCon has made the difficult decision to go VIRTUAL. Contact us at info@milehicon.org with any questions or offers of assistance.



[July 21](#)

If you would like to purchase this year's t-shirt to wear during our virtual con please purchase them or any of our merchandise from our Redbubble store. It can take around a month for shipping. Please order as early as you can.

[Aug 16](#)

MileHiCon 52, Oct. 23-25 is the only virtual Colorado SciFi con. To become part of the CosPlay contest you will have to submit either video or still pictures by September 30th for compilation. For more info.

<https://buff.ly/30ZQrbh>

[Sep 13](#)

MileHiCon's Literacy Auction picks a local charity to receive funds from the auction. We are honored to partner with the Literacy Coalition of Colorado for our 2020 auction. The 2020 Literacy Auction will be held on the auction's Facebook page: <https://buff.ly/35sYUGi>

[Sep 28](#)

Prior to MileHiCon 52 and during the convention, there will be several CosPlay photo galleries on the MileHiCon 52 website. We encourage you to contribute to this gallery.

[Sep 30](#)

The 2020 MileHiCon Literacy Auction is now live on Facebook, today through convention weekend! Check out <http://Facebook.com/literacyauction> for albums of auction items, each auction lasting 3 days. Details will be in the album descriptions. New items will be posted every 3 days!

[Sep 30](#)

The six-part Avistrum audio adventure, "Tales from Avistrum: Titan's Vengeance", debuts at the end of September! Follow the staff and students of Avistrum Academy of Sorcery as they search for their missing colleague, Clark Dowling, throughout time!

[Oct 3](#)

Great News! The Convention Committee has decided to lower the price to get into the Virtual MileHiCon52. The new price is \$15.

[Oct 12](#)

An error may have prevented some people from being able to sign up as an Exhibitor. We've addressed the issue. We are accepting additional orders through the end of this week. To sign up as an Exhibitor, visit this link <https://buff.ly/34Ols2A>

[Oct 18](#)

MileHiCon 52 Virtual is partnering with the BookBar and thanks to artist GoH Alan Pollack we created special MHC 52 bookplates. To get one you will need to buy one of the author's books from the BookBar from Oct. 22 through the 26, participating authors only (while supplies last).

[Oct 23](#)

For attending members of MileHiCon 52. We are having technical issues with the website. our tech team is hard at work resolving the issue. In the meantime please go to the discord link and then follow the instructions in the announcement. <https://discord.gg/3QWGy3P>



Assorted Notes from Discord

Many of you were familiar with Discord before the con, others learned about it that weekend. It's a chat program that can have multiple channels. The MileHiCon Discord had welcome and general channels, one for each of the Zoom programming rooms, etc., and served as our virtual con(versation) suite. It also worked to get announcements out, post the Zoom links for live panels, and so on.

#welcome

10/23/2020

PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESS

Please type %apply to send us your registration details privately. You will receive a direct message from the bot asking for your name and e-mail address. When you're responded to all three questions from the bot, be sure to click the :white_check_mark: on the confirmation prompt to submit your request. From there, the puny humans take over—we'll review and grant your access ASAP. See the illustrated instructions for an example.

If you're having trouble getting access, please mention @discord hosts and we'll get in touch ASAP.

To protect your privacy, please do not send your email address in this channel, regardless of prior instructions — while we do clear messages from this channel once an hour, your information will be visible to everyone until we do.

10/26/2020

Thanks for joining us for MileHiCon 52 Virtual!

We've preserved all of the message history on this server (except for Zoom links), but for the time being we've locked down all channels to read-only mode. If you registered for the virtual con but didn't access Discord and would like to see the conversations, please contact info@milehicon.org and we can make arrangements to get you access.

Stay tuned—in the next few weeks we'll be opening a year-round space here for the MHC community.

#announcements

10/20/2020

Welcome to MileHiCon 52!

New users, please type %apply in the #welcome channel to gain access.

Rules

Your use of this server is subject to the MileHiCon Code of Conduct. This is a shared space with people of all ages and backgrounds, and we want it to be safe and comfortable for everyone. In general, the core tenet is to treat people with respect. Prohibited behaviors include but are not limited to:

- * Excessive use of vulgar or obscene language
- * Sexually explicit or excessively violent content (keep it PG-13 or so)
- * Intentionally inflammatory comments or provocations
- * Targeted harassment of individuals or groups of people
- * Behavior intended to exclude people based on race, religion, sex, gender, sexuality, disability, or other factors not in their control
- * Threatening or intimidating behavior
- * Flooding/spamming the server or otherwise making it unusable for others

For most cases, we'll do our best to warn anyone if we see a problem, but flagrant violations may require immediate action. Actions we can take include muting (removing the ability to send messages) and removal from the server, and can be temporary or permanent as the situation demands.

If you need assistance while using this server, please visit us in #discord-help. Thank you and enjoy your time here!

#asgard

Welcome to #asgard!

This is the start of the #asgard channel.



Thanmor 10/23/2020

This is the right place to be, right?




netgnomemom 10/23/2020


Yes! If you are here to chat about the programs that play on Asgard, this is where you want to be. If you want see the programming that starts at 10:30, go to [:https://mhc52.milehicon.org/milehicon52/asgard/](https://mhc52.milehicon.org/milehicon52/asgard/)





Meg / Programming Director 10/23/2020


If you are having issues accessing the website, the Asgard panels will stream here: <https://www.twitch.tv/milehiconzoomer>


 **cowthulu** 10/23/2020
Coming up next in Asgard: Machete or Scalpel: Editing your work
Whether it's with surgical precision or whacking through the jungle of your words, you should choose your editing tools carefully. Come learn about the pros and cons of edit your work.
Kit Campbell (M), Alex Acks, Richard Friesen, Robin Owens, C.R. Rowenson


 **C. R. Rowenson (Clark)** 10/23/2020
Restrictions May Apply. A Magic-building workbook written by C. R. Rowenson
<https://www.amazon.com/Restrictions-May-Apply-Building-Limits-ebook/dp/B08GLHNWMZ/>
👍 1

 **BigRose** 10/23/2020
Ha! Also ties in the Pandora panel just now on the Price of Magic. 🧙‍♀️

 **C. R. Rowenson (Clark)** 10/23/2020
I know. I was bummed that I couldn't attend that one 😞

 **netgnomemom** 10/23/2020
Questions for the presenters can be posted here, or you can join the zoom seminar and use the Q&A feature 😊

 **netgnomemom** 10/23/2020
Book for editing that Richard recommended: https://read.amazon.com/kp/embed?asin=B07FC7GQWJ&preview=newtab&linkCode=kpe&ref_=cm_sw_r_kb_dp_OoYKFbM88W5K1

 **Lyn Worthen/Leigh Saunders** 10/23/2020
Book for editing that Richard recommended:
Here's a clean link directly to the book page: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07FC7GQWJ>

Panelists continued popping into the channel after live panels to answer questions:

 **Matthew S. Rotundo** 10/23/2020
Thanks to those who attended the Plotting vs. Pantsing panel. Hope you all enjoyed it.
👍 2

 **MHBonham** 10/23/2020
Awesome- I am on!


 **CarolWriter** 10/23/2020
I want to talk about Sam's question.

 **MHBonham** 10/23/2020
Let's

 **Sam Pisciotta** 10/23/2020
Thanks so much!

 **CarolWriter** 10/23/2020
Do I find that I write myself into cliches? Sometimes. But it is not the lack of outlining..
I just have to recognize the cliché or the too easy solution and ask the question "what really happened here?"

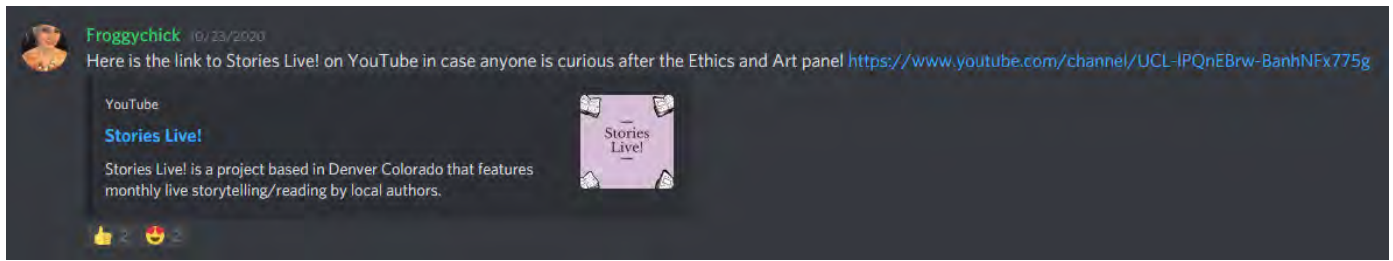
 **rfriesen7** 10/23/2020
Hi, Carol! Or the other question: what would be the worst thing that could happen to my character right now?

 **CarolWriter** 10/23/2020
Hi Rick! Yes, I do ask myself that one a lot!
As readers have told me.

 **Matthew S. Rotundo** 10/23/2020
Agree with Carol. Be suspicious of any answer that seems easy or convenient.
👍 1

 **CarolWriter** 10/23/2020
Or relies too heavily on coincidence. I often find these things on my "spiral read".
👍 2

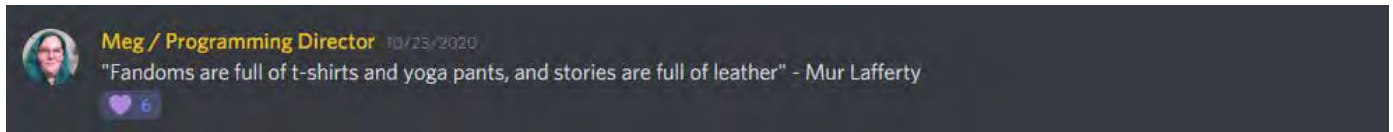
And share/reshare resources:



Froggychick 10/23/2020
Here is the link to Stories Live! on YouTube in case anyone is curious after the Ethics and Art panel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL-IPQnEBrw-BanhNFx775g>

YouTube
Stories Live!
Stories Live! is a project based in Denver Colorado that features monthly live storytelling/reading by local authors.

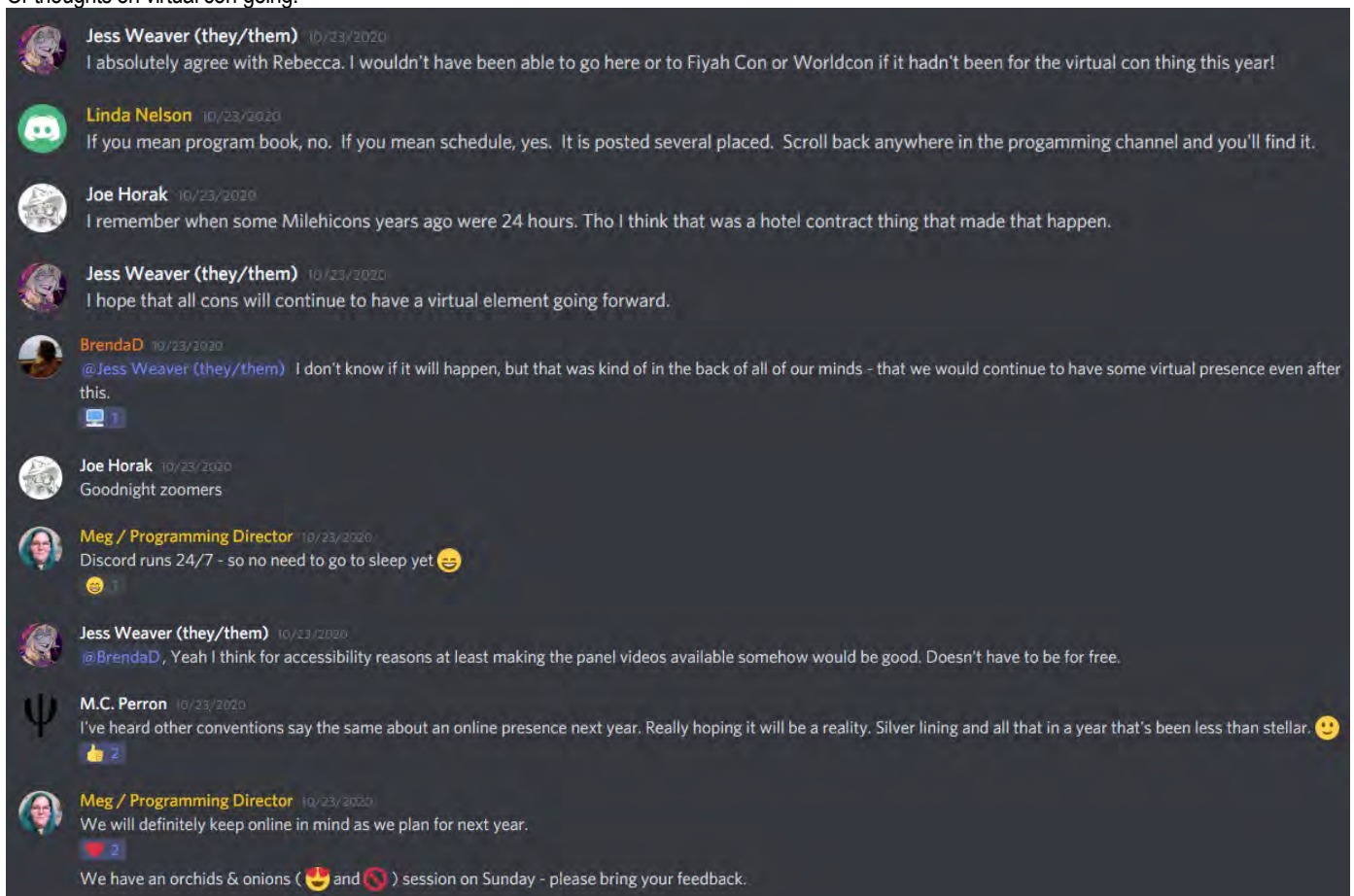
👍 🗨️ 🤔



Meg / Programming Director 10/23/2020
"Fandoms are full of t-shirts and yoga pants, and stories are full of leather" - Mur Lafferty

💜 6

Or thoughts on virtual con-going:



Jess Weaver (they/them) 10/23/2020
I absolutely agree with Rebecca. I wouldn't have been able to go here or to Fiyah Con or Worldcon if it hadn't been for the virtual con thing this year!

Linda Nelson 10/23/2020
If you mean program book, no. If you mean schedule, yes. It is posted several places. Scroll back anywhere in the programming channel and you'll find it.

Joe Horak 10/23/2020
I remember when some MileHicons years ago were 24 hours. Tho I think that was a hotel contract thing that made that happen.

Jess Weaver (they/them) 10/23/2020
I hope that all cons will continue to have a virtual element going forward.

BrendaD 10/23/2020
@Jess Weaver (they/them) I don't know if it will happen, but that was kind of in the back of all of our minds - that we would continue to have some virtual presence even after this.

Joe Horak 10/23/2020
Goodnight zoomers

Meg / Programming Director 10/23/2020
Discord runs 24/7 - so no need to go to sleep yet 😊

Jess Weaver (they/them) 10/23/2020
@BrendaD, Yeah I think for accessibility reasons at least making the panel videos available somehow would be good. Doesn't have to be for free.

M.C. Perron 10/23/2020
I've heard other conventions say the same about an online presence next year. Really hoping it will be a reality. Silver lining and all that in a year that's been less than stellar. 😊

Meg / Programming Director 10/23/2020
We will definitely keep online in mind as we plan for next year.

We have an orchids & onions (🌸 and 🌷) session on Sunday - please bring your feedback.

In the end, I believe that around 350-400 people logged on at one time or another ... which, while way down from an in-person MileHiCon, was quite respectable for a first-time and pulled-together-in-about-five-months virtual version!

With MileHiCon 53 looming up quickly and several weeks earlier than usual (hotel considerations), it remains to be seen what attendance will be like, and what the con experience will be for those who do come in person. [Spoiler alert: I plan to be there!] But remembering back to DonnerCon, I know that even with a lot fewer people it can be a wonderful and memorable experience ... and I have some cool geeky masks I'll be bringing—hope you all do as well!

Yours in fandom ...
Rose Beetem

Con pre- and post-reports

Arlen Feldman's blog

October 19, 2020

<https://cowthulu.com/milehicon-52-virtual/>

MileHiCon is the oldest Sci-Fi convention in Colorado, and one of the oldest in the world (The 52 is a bit of a hint there). I've been involved with MileHiCon for many years. Most years I am on panels, and at random times I've helped out in a spear-carrying capacity.

There is also quite a bit of incestuousness between MileHiCon in Denver and COSine, a much smaller, newer convention in Colorado Springs (that I currently co-chair).

What with the world being on fire and all, we ended up postponing COSine for a year, but MileHiCon, like a number of other conventions, made the decision to go virtual.

MHC 52 Virtual is going to be held this coming weekend (October 23-25), and still has the same slate of Guests of Honor that were planned for the live show—authors Cory Doctorow, Mur Lafferty, Rebecca Roanhorse and artist Alan Pollack. There will also be a number of local authors, scientists and various other knowledgeable and interesting people. But one advantage of being virtual is that there are also a number of previous guests who wouldn't be able to come IRL, but can come virtually, such as SP Somtow and Barbara Hambly.

BTW, if you are interested, memberships are \$15!

But this is the scary bit. There is going to be both recorded and live programming at the convention. No one had any experience dealing with live virtual programming at this sort of scale, myself included. However, I apparently impressed everyone with how well I expressed my profound ignorance, and suddenly got volunteered to handle live virtual programming for the con :-o. Believe me, I did my best to weasel out of it, but they promised me a cool hat...

So, next week I will be doing a blog post on one of two topics. Either a) How cool it is to run a virtual convention, and my really amazing tech or b) Week one of my exile in a bear-infested cave, away from any technology more advanced than a 300 baud modem.

In addition to Zooms wrangling, I am also on a few panels at the convention:

Computers, AI and (Deserved?) Paranoia

Bitcoin and Other Cryptocurrencies (I'm on this one with Cory Doctorow, so am mildly terrified) *[Note: He did great! -RB]*

Future Technical Disruptions

F.P Dorchak blog post - Runnin Off at the Mouth....

October 27, 2020

<https://fpdorckak.wordpress.com/2020/10/27/milehicon52-virtual-a-success/>

The first-ever virtual [MileHiCon52 \(MHC52\)](#) successfully debuted this past weekend!

I've heard from my wife and others about how poorly other virtual "gatherings" have gone off this year, but as I mentioned to others, MHC52 is packed with technological experts and they were *eminently* skilled in what they do. As one said in a post-conference "Orchids and Onions" session, to regroup and take stock, they were all overachievers.

And they were!

There were minor issues, and I don't know all of them, but the major issue was the MHC52 site's server crashing Friday. That, however, was not a *MHC52* issue...it was the server company's issue. For some reason, the server crashed, and those I listened in on didn't seem to know or pass on why it did. But it did and was down all day.

Luckily, they had [Discord](#) in place, as well as all the live-streaming panels being fed into [Twitch](#).

Every one of the tech folks involved in this humongous project were called upon to work their magic to keep things going, and they ALL performed stellarly. I was supremely impressed with everything, and the more I found out about what was going on in the background, the more impressed I became! All of the MHC staff (all volunteers) went above and beyond.

But it's just not the staff, but all the attendees (those who came to have fun at the con) and participants (those who participated in the con's panels and events *for* the attendees...but who *also* came to have fun) were terrific as well. As far as I know, no one made any stinks and all rolled with the punches. It was quite heartwarming to see that no one seemed to break down and "fly off at the handle." Everyone wanted this to be successful, and when there were questions or concerns or issues, they all calmly contacted the MHC52 staff, and the staff quickly and calmly responded to their queries.

It felt so damned good to see people actually working TOGETHER.

#Together

THANK YOU to all of the MHC52 staff and attendees *and* participants! You were all impressive! I can't say enough good about you all.

But one I really have to single out is Meg Ward, the MHC52 Programming Director. And I'm only singling her out because I had to directly interact with her early on, pummeling her with tons of questions. Unlike many of you, I was not previously familiar with Zoom prior to MHC52. I retired just as the Zoom use spiked. I've used other telecon systems, but not Zoom, so yeah, I...had issues. But I also had issues in other areas getting registered and even got confused as to what website was actually being used (there were two versions).

And "[Discord](#)"?! WTH was a "[Discord](#)"?"

But in any event she was extremely patient and pointed me in the right direction for each of my concerns. Thank you—again!—Meg!

MileHiCon 52 Details

The con itself was a blast...insofar as one can have fun in a virtual environment (i.e., staring at a computer screen all day) and not have that human contact. And, yes, it was brought up time and again how much the *human contact* was missed, everyone from attendees on up the MHC52 staff food chain brought it up. Virtual hugs had to do.

As I [previously mentioned](#) I was only in two sessions, a [pre-recorded reading from *ERQ*](#), Sunday premiere at 10 MT, and a [Versions of Afterlife panel](#), Sunday, 2:30–3:30 MT. According to Meg, there were about 60 watching (some 47–57 or so viewers attended the virtual sessions) in on the five of us as we discussed our thoughts on an afterlife. That's a pretty dang-good crowd! Our panel ran in degrees from one who [seemingly] didn't believe in an afterlife to...well, *me*. Who does—and incorporates it heavily in my novels. Otherwise, I attended as many virtual sessions as possible, including a [Kaffeeklatsch with John Stith](#), Sunday at 11:30–12:30 MT.

I caught the following virtual sessions:

- Hour with Steve Resnic Tem
- “Ethics and Art”
- “Real Combat: Fantasy v. Real Fighting”
- “Mars Exploration Update”
- “Artistic References”
- “Amazon/KDU, and Other Publishing Platforms”
- Was in “Aliens, But Make Them Believable” for a little while, then went to...
- “SFF&H in Theater”
- “My Favorite Writing Tools”
- [John Stith's](#) Kaffeeklatsch
- “Editing For Yourself and Others”
- “[Ed Bryant, Jr.](#) Memorial Panel”—only for about 20 minutes, since my “Versions of Afterlife” Panel was coming up at 2:30
- “Computers, AI, and (Deserved?) Paranoia”
- “Orchids and Onions” Sessions with MHC Convention Committee

There is lots to say about each of the above panels, but it'd just be too long a post. We were told most of the panels will all be posted in a YouTube account soon. [Here is the YouTube link for MHC52](#). The MHC staff might be done uploading all the content by the 28th or so.

But of note, I liked the concern about ethics in art...and how artists are trying to be ethical in how they create their art (release forms, being up front, honest, etc., in using people as subjects)...and how users of their art really need to understand that they should all *not* be “swiping” art off the Internet for free for their own use or blog posts if it's not specifically stated as *free-for-public use*; that they can be prosecuted.

How would you like it if you created something, like a book or movie, and it was pirated and you were not compensated for your efforts, while criminals *did* make money of your efforts or others used your work without at least proper attribution? Well, even if you don't care, it's not right. Not ethical. Illegal, even.

Some of us are bothered by this, and there are laws about it. I also mentioned that people still have to be careful even if art is stated to be free, because last I read online, two or three years ago, thieves sometimes steal art, *tag it as their own* (of course using fake names), then sell it on legit sites and elsewhere! Then the end user acts in good faith, getting it, paying for it, but they can *still* be prosecuted, no matter if they claim ignorance.

Another panel I liked was the Mars update. It was neat seeing images taken *the day before* the panel! I tell ya, the Mars terrain looks a LOT like Earth in many places!

I'm also looking forward to the complete compendium to [Ed Bryant's](#) work. I knew Ed, was in a critique group with him and [John Stith](#). He was such a terrific guy. Very down-to-Earth. Intelligent. Funny. Excellent writer. We always spent some time chatting with each other when we ran into each other at cons.

Overall, MHC52 was an incredible success! It had been well executed, well managed, and well attended (over 400 folks were on the MHC52 site, if I heard correctly, which is about 1/3 of the norm, in-person attendance).

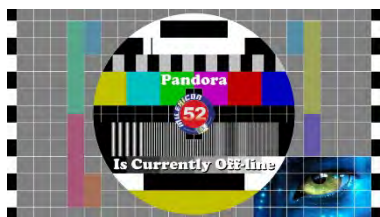
MileHiCon 53?

As to next year's MHC53, no decision has yet been made if it'll be virtual or in-person. It's just too soon to know. But there is definitely consideration being given to a hybrid version (partly virtual), at the very least.

Arlen Feldman's blog

October 30, 2020

<https://cowthulu.com/milehicon-52-virtual-follow-up/>



About a week ago, I put up a [post](#) explaining that I was working on MHC 52's virtual convention (which was held last weekend – Oct. 23-25th). In that post, I said that I would either be talking about our great technical triumph or hiding in a cave full of bears.

Well, I am not in a cave full of bears, but I did spend a few hours under the dining room table with an irate sloth.

Overall, things worked out, but we did have a few problems.

Just to give you an overview of our setup—the convention was centered around a WordPress site. Registered users could go anywhere on the site, including to pages that had either live or prerecorded content. We were also using Discord for discussions, etc.

For the live programming (my bit), we scheduled a Zoom Webinar for each panel and a number of Zoom Meetings for get-togethers, classes, etc. The Zoom Webinars were all set up to stream (via Twitch) to the associated page on the web site (we called the three program rooms Asgard, Neverland and Pandora because, why not?).

Unfortunately, on Friday morning, the WordPress site first ran into performance problems due to the extra load, and then was shut down by the hosting company—who decided that there must be some sort of hack in progress. 🙄

Jyn, who was responsible for the MHC website, spent the remainder of the day building an entirely new (much more powerful) server, setting up certificates, databases, etc. My hat is off to her—she managed to get everything back up and running sometime around 2:00 in the morning after an *exceedingly* tough day.

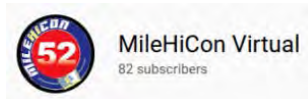
Amazingly enough, programming managed to continue. I manually (ugh) posted links to each panel/item in Discord so that people could either join the Webinars/Meetings or could watch directly in Twitch. The panelists all had custom links sent out in the days before, so they had no trouble (except when they forgot what day of the week it was—apparently I'm not the only person who has lost track of days in COVID-land).

Saturday and Sunday went much more smoothly! We had a few minor hiccups (a couple of members of my Zoom hosting team were using ChromeBooks, and the ChromeBook version of Zoom is missing features—like the ability to start streaming!). A couple of panels started a minute or two late (although sometimes this was because we were waiting for panelists to show up). But, overall, it went really well. I have, of course, been working on a complex curse on all ChromeBooks unto the seventh generation of their processors, which may have a noticeable effect on a few manufacturer's stock prices—just as soon as I find the dribbly candles and the goat's skull.

The Con

The convention had more than 400 attendees, which is about a third of the live convention, but larger than many of the other virtual conventions. Individual panels ranged from 20-80 attendees, which was also really good. There were also a bunch of group get-togethers with various authors, some group classes, and a bunch of prerecorded content—particularly of author readings.

I was also on several panels. The most notable one was on Bitcoin and other Cryptocurrencies, and it was notable because Cory Doctorow was on the panel as well! I think I managed to make it through the panel without obvious squeeing. We are in the process of uploading all of the panels to YouTube, but they limit the amount you can upload each day, so it is taking a while. When it is up, I will post a link.



The content that has been uploaded so far can be found at [MileHiCon Virtual](#) on YouTube.

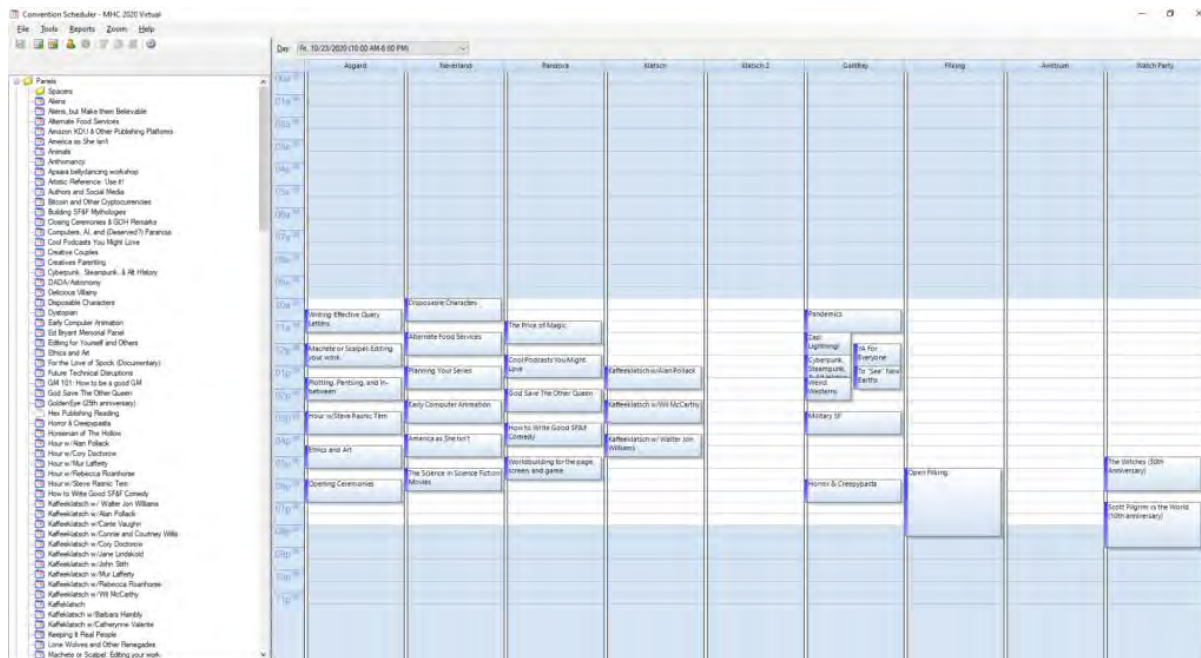
Update: The post with links to my panels can be found [here](#).

My setup

We decided to use Zoom after considering about a dozen conference options that were either too complicated, too simplistic or too expensive. I chose Twitch for streaming after a long conversation with Alan Bond, who, amongst other things, managed tech for *NASFiC*, and was extremely generous with his time. We originally planned to use YouTube for streaming, but they had a bunch of conditions we couldn't meet (like having 4000 hours of viewed programming on three different accounts before we would be allowed to do live embedding).

Twitch worked really well, other than a rather frustrating attempt to get answers out of their support organization (well, it *is* free). I had three separate accounts, one for each live panel room.

Once I got the schedule, I sucked it into a program I'd written to manage *COSine* programming (that's the convention I co-chair):



I added functionality to the program to talk to the Zoom API and also to export the schedule as HTML in a bunch of different sliced-and-diced ways for the web pages. It also exported JSON for the main pages—I had a cool setup where it showed “Now Playing” and “Up Next” beneath each streamed program, along with the appropriate Zoom link in case people wanted to jump in and ask questions.

Unfortunately, my JavaScript skills are poor (which is convenient, since JavaScript is a poor language—not that I’m judgemental about it or anything), and I screwed up the timezone handling—anyone outside of MDT was seeing the wrong links on day one. Fortunately, the web site went down early enough that very few people ran into that problem! I fixed it that night, once the new server was up.

The Zoom API is *pretty* good, but has some gaps. For example, you can easily set up streaming for Zoom Meetings, but not for Zoom *Webinars* (which makes little sense, since they are obviously the same structure behind the scenes). I ended up having to write code to bring up the Zoom web site, and automate it—clicking on the appropriate buttons and filling in the data, etc. It was a major hack, but worked except, for some strange reason, on one panel that happened to be my sister Dany’s. (I just filled that one in manually).

The other thing I screwed up was pass codes to the panels. I had to auto-generate them, and I created alphanumeric codes. Unfortunately, you can’t enter those into a phone, and we had at least one blind attendee who had trouble because of that.

The scheduler also sent custom e-mails to each panelist with their join links, and to each person who was hosting the webinar (we assigned a Zoom host to each meeting, who was responsible for starting the Webinar and hitting the button to start streaming—something else that the API only supported for Meetings). I did *consider* automating the launching and streaming of the webinars, but we really needed to have someone technical on anyway, and overall it worked well (for those people not using soon-to-be-cursed Chromebooks).

During the convention, I had 5 computers set up to monitor the web pages, Twitch, etc., and for me to jump into any panel that was having trouble. Other than getting lost in my own systems, that worked well, too (although I probably would have been fine with 4 computers).

Because of my panopticon view, I ended up seeing a lot more of the con than I would normally (although usually in about 15 minute chunks), and I have to say that there was some *really* great stuff going on. However, during one of the panels I overheard, the moderator started talking about what we might do differently if we were virtual again *next year*. My for-real out-loud scream of horror was probably heard five streets away.

So, it is possible that the convention might be virtual next October, but if it is, I am likely going to be running Zoom meetings from a bear cave on an island in the Pacific.

Final Note

As of publication time (September 12, 2021), MileHiCon 53 is scheduled to occur in real life, with some virtual components ... more than ever before except for last year, not as much as might be nice—but there are constraints of people/time and in the case of the hotel, cost. The technology to do streaming may be available through the hotel, but it is really expensive, and renting/buying the equipment to record onsite is similarly way pricier than recording a Zoom session.

Like last year, MileHiCon 53 also will be like no previous MileHiCon ... with COVID-19 restrictions still in place and many regular attendees not yet feeling safe in returning. But I look forward to seeing many old friends, and reuniting with my fannish family.

One last addendum, for those who read everything ... this publication, as all my work on behalf of MileHiCon over the years has been, was a labor of love and certainly not done for the (non-existent) money. However, if you enjoyed reading this, having this, etc., I ask you to consider making a small donation to MileHiCon via the website—or at the con. This year will be a tricky one financially and I for one will do whatever I can to make sure the con continues on. Hope you will too!

--Rose Beetem



MileHiCon Virtual

91 subscribers





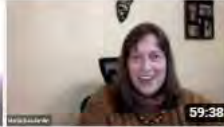





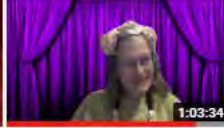































SUBSCRIBED

- HOME
- VIDEOS
- PLAYLISTS
- CHANNELS
- DISCUSSION
- ABOUT



Uploads [PLAY ALL](#)

SORT BY

 57:12	 1:00:31	 1:01:48	 59:39	 59:38	 47:07
Keeping it Real People - MHC 52 46 views · 9 months ago	Aliens, but make them Believable - MHC 52 20 views · 9 months ago	Creative Couples - MHC 52 9 views · 9 months ago	Modern Age of Poetry - MHC 52 12 views · 9 months ago	Editing for Yourself and Others - MHC 52 18 views · 9 months ago	Authors and Social Media - MHC 52 8 views · 9 months ago
 1:02:57	 1:02:45	 1:00:15	 59:04	 1:03:34	 58:27
Bitcoin and Other Cryptocurrencies - MHC 52 8 views · 9 months ago	GM 101 - How to be a good GM - MHC 52 5 views · 9 months ago	Hour with GOH Alan Pollack - MHC 52 4 views · 9 months ago	My Favorite Writing Tools - MHC 52 47 views · 9 months ago	Masquerade - Full Video/Panel - MHC 52 9 views · 9 months ago	Storytime with Miss Danyda - MHC 52 6 views · 9 months ago
 43:20	 1:02:04	 1:00:31	 55:15	 36:09	 1:03:44
Hour with GOH Cory Doctorow - MHC 52 18 views · 9 months ago	SF&F/H in Theatre - MHC 42 9 views · 9 months ago	Ed Bryant Remembrance Panel - MHC 52 7 views · 9 months ago	Versions of the Afterlife - MHC 52 15 views · 9 months ago	Closing Ceremonies - MHC 52 5 views · 9 months ago	Computers, AI, and (Deserved?) Paranoia - MH... 19 views · 9 months ago
 58:53	 1:11:42	 6:58	 1:09:30	 50:11	 1:13:01
Creatives Parenting - MHC 52 8 views · 9 months ago	Orchids and Onions - MHC 52 - convention wrapup 13 views · 9 months ago	MHC52 Masquerade - masquerade video 12 views · 10 months ago	Amazon KDU & Other Publishing Platforms 24 views · 10 months ago	Hour with GOH Rebecca Roanhorse - MHC 52 10 views · 10 months ago	Hour with GOH Steve Rasnic Tem - MHC 52 37 views · 10 months ago
 19:54	 16:49	 24:48	 20:41	 25:02	 24:13
Connie Willis - New Releases - Reading 116 views · 10 months ago	Carrie Vaughn - New Releases - Reading 9 views · 10 months ago	Cory Doctorow - New Releases - Reading 16 views · 10 months ago	Lauren C Teffeau - Setting as Character - Reading 4 views · 10 months ago	Walter Jon Williams - Setting as Character - Reading 17 views · 10 months ago	Steve Rasnic Tem - Setting as Character - Reading 33 views · 10 months ago
 22:54	 30:41	 22:06	 26:39	 21:03	 24:11
Paul Lell - Lone Wolves and Other Renegades - Reading 7 views · 10 months ago	Lou Berger - Lone Wolves & Other Renegades - Reading 12 views · 10 months ago	Reese Hogan - Queer SF&F - Reading 10 views · 10 months ago	Alex Acks/Wells - Queer SF&F - Reading 10 views · 10 months ago	R Gary Raham - Aliens - Reading 5 views · 10 months ago	F.P. Dorchak - Aliens - Reading 6 views · 10 months ago
 13:14	 29:02	 22:31	 18:19	 1:03:29	 1:01:55
Van Aaron Huges - Aliens - Reading 3 views · 10 months ago	Wil McCarthy - Delicious Villainy - Reading 13 views · 10 months ago	Matthew S Rotundo - Delicious Villainy - Reading 10 views · 10 months ago	Carol Berg - Delicious Villainy - Reading 24 views · 10 months ago	Artistic Reference: Use It! - MHC 52 18 views · 10 months ago	Real Combat: Fantasy vs Fighting - MHC 52 25 views · 10 months ago