

NESFA®'S REGIONAL SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

# BOSKONE<sup>®</sup> 59

**February 18–20, 2022**

IN-PERSON & ONLINE CONVENTION



NESFA®'S REGIONAL SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

# BOSKONE® 60

**FEBRUARY 17-19, 2023**

THE WESTIN BOSTON SEAPORT DISTRICT

## EARLY BIRD RATES

Adult .....\$50

YA (18-25) .....\$30

Child (5-17).....\$20

Valid through  
March 15, 2022

## What is Boskone?

Brought to you by the New England Science Fiction Association (NESFA®), Boskone is an annual science fiction convention, the oldest in New England. NESFA is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation and both NESFA and Boskone are run and put on entirely by fan volunteers.

Boskone features a world-class speculative fiction program, art show, dealer's room, and gathering where fans can interact with their favorite authors, editors, artists, and other Fantasy and Science Fiction professionals.

**[WWW.BOSKONE.ORG](http://WWW.BOSKONE.ORG) | [INFO@BOSKONE.ORG](mailto:INFO@BOSKONE.ORG)**

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**NESFA WELCOMES YOU TO**

# **BOSKONE® 59**

February 18–20, 2022

Type of Convention Here

**Guest of Honor**

Ted Chiang

**Special Guest**

Tamsyn Muir

**Official Artist**

Sara Felix

**Musical Guest**

Tim Griffin

Thanks to Benjamin Rosenbaum, John Jude Palencar, Brooke Bolander  
and Leah Hanes for their appreciations of Boskone's guests.

Front cover image and the art folio are © Sara Felix.

"Sometimes I Get The Sense That Ted Chiang Is A Little Unnerved By All This Adulation" is © Benjamin Rosenbaum.

"An Appreciation For Sara Felix" is © John Jude Palencar.

"Tamsyn Muir Has Always Been This Good" is © Brooke Bolander.

"Tim Griffin Has Found His Calling" is © Dr. Leah Hanes.

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# Committee

**Chair:** Sharon Sbarsky

- Assistants: Rick Kovalcik, Gay Ellen Dennett

• Extra Special Assistant: Aslan

**Treasurer:** Judith C. Bemis

• **Deputy:** Dave Anderson

- **Staff:** Felicia Herman, Gloria Lucia Albasi

**E-commerce:** Sharon Sbarsky

**Guest Liaison:** Laurie Mann

**Debriefing:** David G. Grubbs

**Hotel:** Gay Ellen Dennett

- **Staff:** Jim Mann, Ben Yalow

**Space Planning:** Chip Hitchcock

**Discord Coordinators:** Kristin Seibert & Mike Rafferty

## Program

**Program Director:** James Boggie

**Deputies:** Erin Underwood, Priscilla Olson,

- **Staff:** Bob Devney, Cristina Jurado, Laurie Mann, DJ Oliveira, Ana Rüsche, Jennifer Williams

**Autographing:** Seth Breidbart

**Program Ops:** Tim Szczesuil

- **Program Ops Staff:** Brenda Noiseux

**Pocket Program:** Skip Morris

**DragonsLair:** Jan Dumas

**Filk:** Ellen Kranzer

**Gaming:** Bill Todd

**Staff:** Rebecca Harris Brumderger

## Events

**Events Director:** David D'Antonio

**Events Staff:** Jeff Warner

**Friday Evening Event:**

- **Guest Introductions:** Laurie Mann & David G. Grubbs
- **Guest Introduction MC:** David G. Grubbs
- **Reception:** Gay Ellen Dennett

- **Awards Ceremony Script:** David G. Grubbs

- **Awards Ceremony MC:** David G. Grubbs

- **Plaques & Awards:** Tony Lewis

## Galleria/Exhibits

**Art Show:** Andrea Senchy

- **Setup/Teardown:** Chip Hitchcock

- **Assistant:** Jeff Keller

- **Mail-in Art:** Ira Donewitz

- **Staff:** usual suspects from the P.E.C.F.A.S.C.

**Exhibits:**

**Author Alley Coordinator:** Suford Lewis

**Dealers Room Coordinator:** Suford Lewis

**Fan Tables:** Geri Sullivan

**Con Suite:** Michael Kerpan

- **Staff:** Maria Eskinazi, Michael Rasnick

## Services

**Information & Volunteers:** Wes Brodsky

**Access Services:** Jan Dumas, Rick Kovalcik, Kristin Seibert

**Den:** Joni Brill Dashoff

**Coat Check (aka NarniaCon):** Kristin Seibert

- **Guard Lion:** Aslan

- **Staff:** Kylie Selkirk, Amanda Coakley, Yakira Heistand, Michael Rafferty, Bartender Bot

- **NarniaCon's Scavenger Hunt:** Narniacon

**Pre-registration:** Dave Cantor

- **Pre-reg software:**

**Badge Design:** Geri Sullivan

**Badge Production:** Rick Kovalcik & Geri Sullivan

**At-Con Registration:** Richard Duffy

**Logistics:** Rick Kovalcik

- **Staff:** David G. Grubbs, Tim Roberge, Kristin Seibert, Kelly Persons

**Office:** Ann Broomhead

**Setup of Vonage Telephone:** Dave Anderson

**Sign Shop:** Robert Luoma

**Ribbons:** Sharon Sbarsky

**Marketing:** Adam Beaton

**Shopping:** Dave Anderson [see what kind of Shopping we do for Boskone]

## Technical Services

**Technical Coordinator:** Peter Olszowka

**Main Stage Coordinator:** Tom Dings

**Outbound Streaming Coordinator:** K Wiley

**Virtualization Software:** Paul Kraus

**Recording Wrangler:** Eric "Dr. Gandalf" Fleischer

- **Staff:** \*hobbit\*

**Tech Staff and Volunteer Coordinator:**

Beth Kevles

**General Tech Staff:** \*hobbit\*, Fred Bauer, Lisa Hertel, Jim Housel

## Publications

**Flyer/Ad Design:** Geri Sullivan

**Newsletter/Progress Reports (pre-con):**

Erin Underwood

**Newsletter/Helmuth (at-con):** Tony Lewis

**Souvenir Book Editor:** Lis Carey

- **Designer:** Errick Nunnally

- **Advertising Sales:** Pam Burr

**Social Media:** Adam Beaton

**Mobile Schedule Publication:** Mary Olszowka

**Website:** Tim Szczesuil

## NESFA

**NESFA Sales:** Robert Luoma

- **Staff:** Kelly Persons

- **Advance Sales:**

**Cash Register Wrangler:** Dave Anderson

**Email Liaison:**

**Short Story Contest:** Steven Lee

- **First Readers:** Chip Hitchcock, Ann Crimmins, Rick Katze, Kelsey Pouk, David G. Grubbs

- **Judges:** Tamsyn Muir, Tim Griffin, Elaine Isaak

**Skylark Award:** Joe Ross

- **Award acquisition:** Tony Lewis

**Gaughan Award:** Not awarded this year



# Welcome to Boskone 59!

Whether you are with me in person at the Westin Boston Seaport District or virtually attending from around the globe, I look forward to spending the weekend with you.

The pandemic brought with it a host of virtual conventions, allowing the global community that is fandom to truly connect as never before, despite the fact that it was all from the isolation of our own homes. Zoom panels let us bring in panelists (and their pets!) who we couldn't have dreamed of in person. And it also brought Zoom meetings for planning and socializing instead of gathering in person. Now we have vaccines and the opportunity to meet in person which are amazing, but I'm going to miss being able to attend a panel from the park on a lovely day. I am absolutely delighted to bring those virtual, global fandom connections and experiences into the Boskone I'd known and loved for over 40 years before we'd ever heard of COVID-19 for our first hybrid convention.

That being said, it wasn't really me that did it. After all, a con chair is but the captain and captains are nothing without a crew. My committee, staff, and volunteers have really gone above and beyond to dream up this hybrid Boskone and make it a reality. Together, we would like to invite you to join us in Boldly Going Where No Boskone Has Gone Before.

*Sharon Sbarsky*

Boskone 59 Chair

February 12, 2022

# About NESFA

**WHAT IS NESFA?** The New England Science Fiction Association is the parent organization for Boskone and NESFA Press. The members are all volunteers who love science fiction. NESFA was founded in 1967 to pursue SF-related projects and to schmooze. Our ethic can best be summed up by "have fun doing work you like." We are passionate about SF and enjoy talking about and doing things to share our interest with the world. We have about four hundred members (mostly subscribing members) from all over the world. Anyone interested can join NESFA as a subscribing member by paying the annual dues of \$20.

**MEETINGS:** COVID-19 has changed our ability to meet in person. However, we gather in zoom every Wednesday evening for general discussions, there are also reading and writing groups meeting on zoom and we still meet one Sunday afternoon each month for general NESFA business. For a full listing of regular activities, please visit the NESFA calendar at <https://www.nesfa.org/events/>.

**AWARDS WE GIVE:** NESFA sponsors two annual awards: the Edward E. Smith Memorial Award for Imaginative Fiction (the Skylark) and the Jack Gaughan Award for best emerging artist. Additional information about the awards as well as historical list of winners is included in the Boskone Souvenir Book and current year winners are announced at Boskone, during the Awards Ceremony on Saturday.

**NESFA PRESS:** NESFA Press publishes the Boskone Guest of Honor books, some Worldcon Guest of Honor books, some fannish books, and the NESFA's Choice series — which reprints previously out-of-print works of classic SF. Please visit the NESFA Press website anytime or stop by the NESFA Sales table in the Dealers Room and check out the numerous volumes in this acclaimed series.

**CLUBHOUSE & LIBRARY:** The NESFA clubhouse is located at 504 Medford Street, Somerville, MA (phone 617-625-2311), just off Broadway near Magoun Square. The clubhouse also houses NESFA's library of thousands of science fiction books, a great reference collection, and an extensive run of SF magazines and fanzines. NESFA members may check out any item in the library.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.nesfa.org](http://www.nesfa.org), email us at [info@nesfa.org](mailto:info@nesfa.org)



# Policies

Boskone takes the issue of member conduct seriously. If you have questions, please be sure to read our Code of Conduct for more information.

## Boskone Code of Conduct

Be respectful and courteous toward others. We expect you to understand that “no” means no. Harassment of any kind, from intimidation to verbal abuse to illegal behavior will not be tolerated. This policy applies to your interactions with everybody. We also expect you to refrain from illegal, destructive, and hazardous conduct.

Violation of this policy can result in action by the con committee ranging from warnings, to having your membership revoked with no refund, to permanent banning. Action by the convention in no way precludes the injured individual from pursuing whatever remedies, civil or criminal, as they see fit.

If you feel you are being harassed, please let the **Con Chair** or a **NESFA Officer** know. If necessary, please ask a Committee member to find one of those people for you. You will be treated with respect and your concerns will be taken seriously. All names involved will be kept confidential to the extent possible, but any accused person has the right to know enough details to be able to defend himself, herself or themselves.

Please note that other behaviors, including but not limited to destruction of the con space, can also result in the actions described above.

Boskone is a members only event and the con committee reserves the right to determine who may be a member.

## COVID Vaccination & Mask Policy

1. All people physically attending Boskone 5 years old and older must be fully vaccinated and show proof of vaccination. There are no exceptions.
2. All people physically attending Boskone 5 years old and older must be fully vaccinated and show proof of vaccination. There are no exceptions.
3. All people 2 years old or older [attending Boskone] must wear a mask in convention spaces (including open parties) at all times, except when eating or drinking in designated food and drink spaces. There are no exceptions.
4. Children 4 and under must be with parents or guardians at all times and have a negative PCR test taken February 15 or later.
5. Children 4 and under must be with parents or guardians at all times and have a negative PCR test taken February 15 or later.

Please contact us (at [info@boskone.org](mailto:info@boskone.org)) if you have any questions.

## Weapons Policy

We expect you to refrain from illegal, destructive, and hazardous conduct that harms others.

Please direct questions to the Boskone Chairs' List at [chair@boskone.org](mailto:chair@boskone.org) and incidents to the NESFA eBoard at [eboard@nesfa.org](mailto:eboard@nesfa.org).

## Boskone Press Policy

Members of the press are welcome to attend Boskone and we look forward to hearing that you are planning to attend. In addition, we are happy to answer any questions that you may have about Boskone, the program, and our participants.

All we ask is that members of the press are respectful of other members who are attending Boskone. Please register as normal to attend the convention. Then, once your piece is published in a news outlet, please contact us within 90 days of the convention with either a copy or the URL of the article about Boskone, and we will issue a refund for your membership.

We are happy to answer any additional question that you may have about covering Boskone or interviewing our program participants. Please contact us at [marketing@boskone.org](mailto:marketing@boskone.org).



# Philcon 2022

November 18-20, 2022

The Cherry Hill Hotel (formerly Crowne Plaza Hotel), Cherry Hill, NJ

Principal Speaker:

**Keith DeCandido**

Artist Guest of Honor:

**Charles Urbach**

Enjoy a Weekend of:

- Panels, art show, masquerade, concerts, gaming, anime, writers' workshop, meet the pros, filking, vendors and more!
- Free parking
- Public transit access

**Rates through 5/31/22:**

Adults - \$50

Students & Active Military - \$30

Teens (13-17) - \$25

Children 7-12 - \$20

Children under 7 at Philcon - Free

**[www.philcon.org](http://www.philcon.org)**

**[www.Facebook.com/Philcon.PSFS](https://www.facebook.com/Philcon.PSFS)**

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# In Memoriam

Fans, pros and other people of interest who died between January 2021 and early January 2022. Thanks to Steven Silver for providing the original content & to Fancyclopedia and Locus for providing some dates.

Photo by Roberto Nickson

Fan **Timothy Lane** (12/12/1951-1/12/2021), editor of *FOSFAX*.

Author **Storm Constantine** (10/12/1956-1/14/2021), *Wraeththu* series.

Author **Kathleen Ann Goonan** (5/14/1952-1/28/2021), Nanotech cycle.

Artist **Rowena Morrill** (9/14/1944-2/11/2021). Chicon 7 Artist Guest of Honor & World Fantasy Lifetime Achievement Award winner.

Editor/fan **Wanda June Alexander** (6/15/1951-2/14/2021), consulting editor for Tor Books.

Conrunner **Don Lundry** (8/6/1936-2/14/2021), chaired SunCon.

Artist **Dean Morrissey** (10/1/1951-3/4/2021), wrote & illustrated "Ship of Dreams," won four Chesley Awards.

Author **Norton Juster** (6/2/1929-3/8/2021), *The Phantom Tollbooth*.

Fan **Penny Frierson** (10/3/1942-4/3/2021), cochair of ConFederation & founded the Birmingham Science Fiction Club.

Author **Margaret Wander Bonanno** (2/7/1950-4/8/2021), *Star Trek* novels, 2 YA novels as **Rick North**.

Fan **Jay Kingston** (8/5/1960-4/18/2021), a founding member of the Rhode Island Science Fiction Club.

Artist **Robin Wood** (11/1/1953-4/19/2021), *Dragon Magazine* covers.

Astronaut **Michael Collins** (10/31/1930-4/28/2021), flew on Gemini & Apollo missions.

Author **Jan Stirling** (4/5/1950-5/8/2021), short story writer..

Anthologist **Marvin Kaye** (3/10/1938-5/13/2021), fantasy editor.

Author **Don Sakers** (6/16/1958-5/17/2021), PSiScouts series, book reviewer for *Analog*.

Author **Judi B. Castro** (2/4/1963-7/15/2021), wrote with her husband Adam-Troy Castro.

Author **William F. Nolan** (3/6/1928-7/15/2021), *Logan's Run*, Author Emeritus from SFWA.

Artist **Stephen Hickman** (4/9/1949-7/16/2021), *The Fantasy Art of Stephen Hickman*, Hugo Award winner.

Author **Patricia Kennealy-Morrison** (3/4/1946-7/23/2021), wrote the *Keltiad* trilogies and several mysteries.

Fan **Ed Meskys** (3/11/1936-7/25/2021), president of the Tolkien Society of America, edited *Niekas* & a Hugo-winner.

Editor **Elizabeth Anne Hull** (1/10/1937-8/3/2021), active in the Science Fiction Research Association.

Game designer **Steve Perrin** (1/26/1946-8/13/2021), Society for Creative Anachronism member who created *RuneQuest*.

Fan **Erle Korshak** (10/29/1923-8/25/2021), active in fandom since the 1930s, had been named fan GoH for Chicon 8.

Author **L. Neil Smith** (5/12/1946-8/27/2021), created the Prometheus Awards, published nearly thirty novels.

**Genie DeModica** (1/7/1948-8/31/2021) a founder of the Western Pennsylvania Science Fiction Association.

Fan **Carol Carr** (11/9/1938-9/1/2021), fan and short story writer.

Author **Doris Piserchia** (10/11/1928-9/15/2021), wrote novels including *Earthchild*, *Spaceling*, and *I, Zombie*.

Fan **Mary Kay Kare** (7/1/1952-10/7/2021), con runner & faned.

Author **Carole Nelson Douglas** (11/15/1944-10/20/2021), wrote the *Delilah Street*, *Paranormal Investigator* series and the *Kendri* and *Irissa* fantasy series.

Author **Jim Fiscus** (12/6/1944-11/7/2021, served as a director of SFWA and was awarded the Kevin O'Donnell Jr Service to SFWA Award.

Fan/Author **Diana G. Gallagher** (3/14/1946-12/2/2021), won the Hugo Award for Best Fan Artist, wrote numerous TV show tie-in novels.

Author **Anne Rice** (10/4/1941-12/11/2021), best-selling author of *Interview with the Vampire* and its sequels.

Bibliographer **William G. Contento** (4/13/1947-12/13/2021), *Locus Index to Science Fiction*

Fan **Ron Zukowoski** (12/19/1949-12/19/2021), co-chair of Confederation, the 1986 Worldcon.

Conrunner **Willie Siros** (12/31/1952-1/5/2022), bookseller, NASFiC & Worldcon chair.



# Sometimes I Get The Sense Ted Chiang Is A Little Unnerved By All This Adulation

*By Benjamin Rosenbaum*



**N**ow, I don't want to overstate the case here. I'm not trying to paint Ted as some curmudgeonly ascetic who scowls at the world's laurels. He's not. Ted is gracious, and charming, and a lot of fun at parties... particularly if, like Ted (and like me), what you want to do at parties is argue about whether a closed timelike loop is the only intellectually coherent time-travel story premise, or whether there exists any conceivable empirical finding which should persuade one to abandon empiricism, or about, say, the Singularity. (In our younger days, Ted and I got the entire topic of the Singularity permanently banned from certain parties.)

And it's not that Ted dislikes acclaim in principle. He enjoys it when people engage with his stories. He appreciates praise. He was intrigued, and then delighted, when Hollywood came calling and made an excellent big-budget movie (*Arrival*, starring Amy Adams and Jeremy Renner) from his story "Story of Your Life." He liked the movie. (It was a great movie.)

But applause can sometimes get



a little overwhelming. The 17 stories in Ted's two collections have won him a total of 18 Hugo and Nebula awards (never mind the Tiptree, the BSFA, and the World Fantasy). Quite a hit rate! It's as if, as soon as Ted sits down to write a sentence, people start polishing little silver rocketships and preparing to engrave his name on lucite blocks. That's a lot of pressure.

And while I think Ted is happy that his friends like his stories, I get the sense that it's a little weird for him, the extent to which we all think he's a motherfucking genius.

Ted's genius is threefold. His worlds are daring and dazzling: virtuoso delights of extrapolation. No one takes a philosophical question, or a whimsical premise, or a sly observation about human nature or the universe, and follows it to its logical conclusion the way Ted does. Plenty of people might gesture at Kabbalistic mysticism, or Young Earth Creationism, or quantum mechanics, or machine learning, or the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, or the Biblical story of the Tower of Babel, and glean ideas from them, or mine them for tropes. But Ted will take one of these ideas and spin a startling, compelling, rigorously coherent, mind-blowing universe out of it... a universe at once deliciously absurd and completely sensible.

If Ted's worlds are spectacular, his prose style is deceptively humble. His sentences never indulge in pyrotechnic lyricism. They are not attention-grabbing. What they are, however, is *perfect*. They fit the setting and the characters perfectly; they mainline the lucid dream of the story straight into your brain. At first glance, you might not notice what Ted's words are doing. On closer inspection, it's hard not to be awestruck and humbled by their elegance and precision. Not fireworks, but laser scalpels.

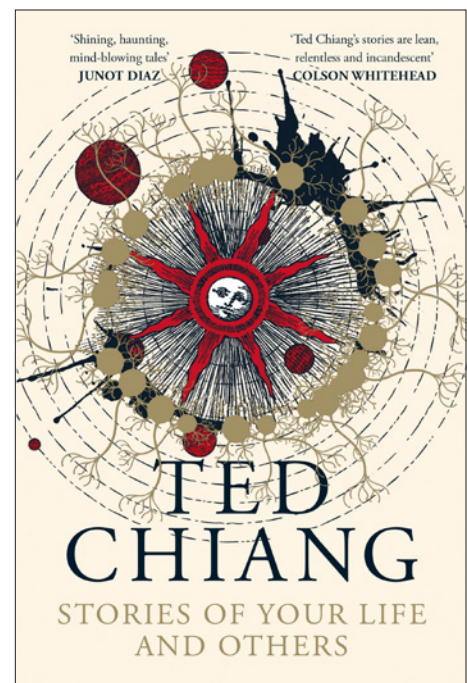
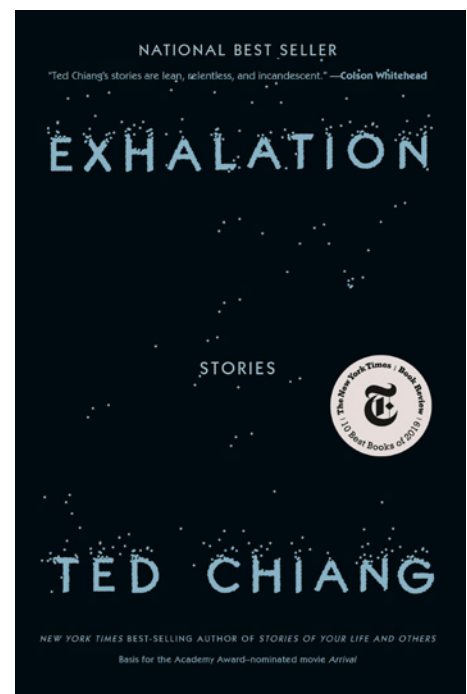
Often, when you start a Ted Chiang

story, you are focused on these first two virtues. The ideas are so riveting, the prose so weightlessly potent, that — even though the characters immediately draw you in, even though you immediately believe in them and see through their eyes — you imagine you're going to read something very clever, very cerebral, but perhaps a little austere and bloodless. Which is why, when the alchemy happens, when the emotional impact of the story coheres, you're defenseless.

How is it fair, I ask you, that a story as finely crafted and brilliantly imagined as "Story of Your Life" or "The Lifecycle of Software Objects" or "The Truth of Fact, The Truth of Fiction" is also so goddamn heartbreaking?

So yeah. Ted doesn't really like being elevated to some transcendent plane, crowned in glory, singled out. He just wants to make up stories, and share them with us. He wants to think and debate and imagine alongside us. He wants to put words together until he likes how they fit. He doesn't particularly want to be seen as a genius.

But the rest of us have to call things as we see 'em. So I'm afraid Ted is just going to have to deal with it.







SEP 03 2022  
8:30 PM

# ORLANDO IN 2023

**NASFIC BID**

[www.orlandoin2023.org](http://www.orlandoin2023.org)

A BID FOR THE 15TH NORTH AMERICAN SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION





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**The Maryland Regional Science Fiction Convention**

# BALTICON 56

Guest of Honor  
**Nancy Springer**



Artist Guest of Honor  
**Odera Igboke**



Special Guest  
**Seanan McGuire**



Special Guest  
**Wen Spencer**



Special Guest  
**C.J. Cherryh**



2021 Compton Crook  
Award Winner  
**Micaiah Johnson**



2020 Compton Crook  
Award Winner  
**Arkady Martine**



2019 Compton Crook  
Award Winner  
**R.F. Kuang**

**May 27-30, 2022**

**Memorial Day Weekend**

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# An Appreciation For Sara Felix

By John Jude Palencar

**M**ore than twenty years ago I answered the phone, a quiet and unassuming voice was on the other end of the line. "A stalker, I thought?" No, it was Sara Felix. That meek voice belied a determined and energetic young lady. At once she is a fangirl, crafter and artist. Sara started from the ground-floor at the bookstore, 'Crime and Space'. There, her love of the genres of fantasy and science fiction were fostered. Her first convention was the ArmadilloCon convention in Austin, TX. It was at that convention that she started selling her work. The camaraderie of artists and fans inspired her further. Seeing Brian Froud's work in the film, "The Dark Crystal" and subsequently his book, "Fairies" sealed her love of the genre. She finally got to meet Brian Froud at one of his rare stateside appearances at DragonCon.

Selling her artwork and her involvement with the convention scene grew. She had a knack for herding cats—I mean artists. At the urging of the past president of the "Association of Science Fiction & Fantasy Artists" (ASFA). She ran for an ASFA office and was elected as their "Central Director". She has curated numerous exhibitions at conventions and galleries throughout country. Currently, she is the president of ASFA. Remember that determination I talked about? Seriously, her work ethic is second to none.

One of her pieces I enjoyed was a diorama of a flying saucer (aliens)

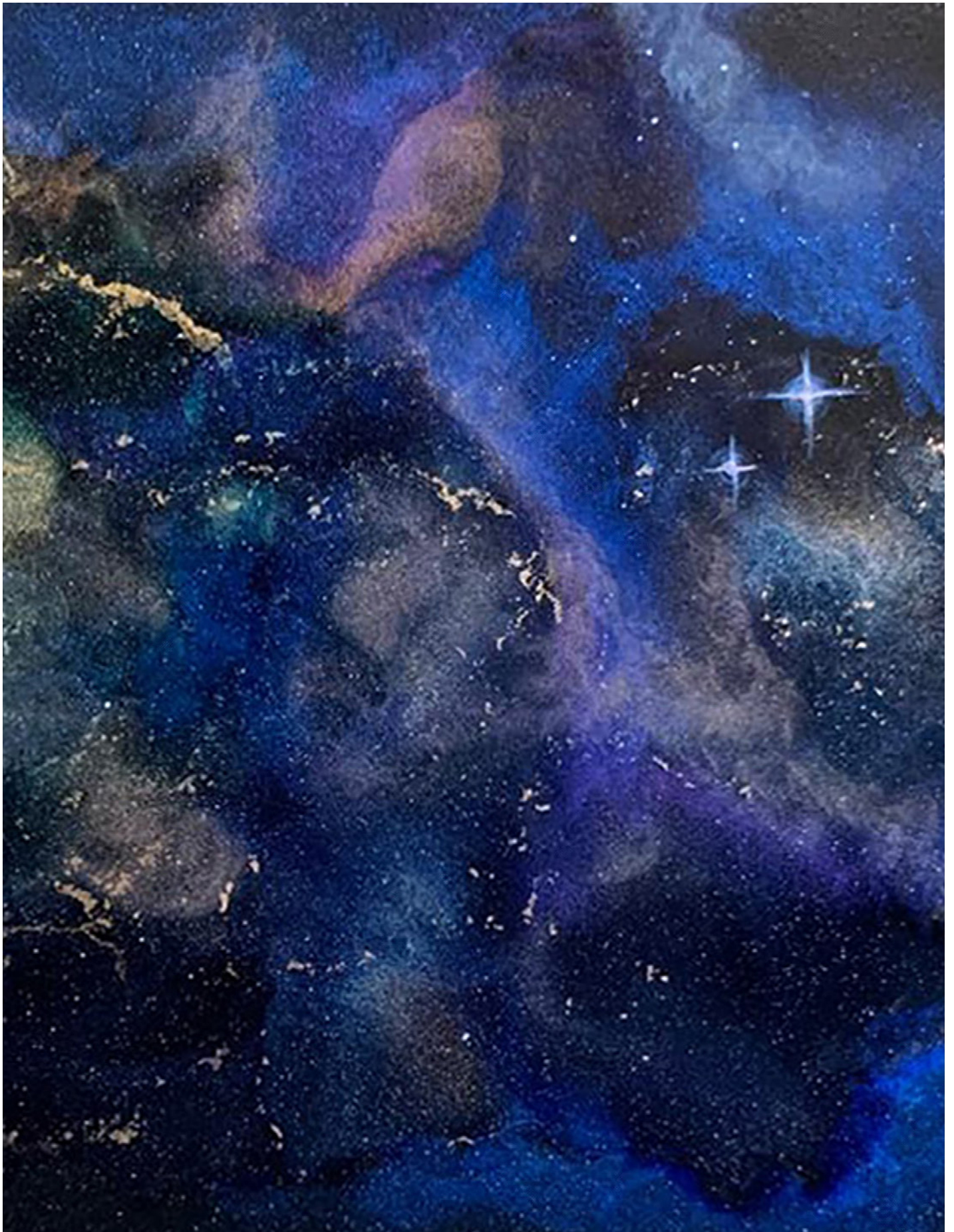


in the process of mutilating a cow. Cattle mutilations. It was then I knew we shared the same twisted sense of humor.

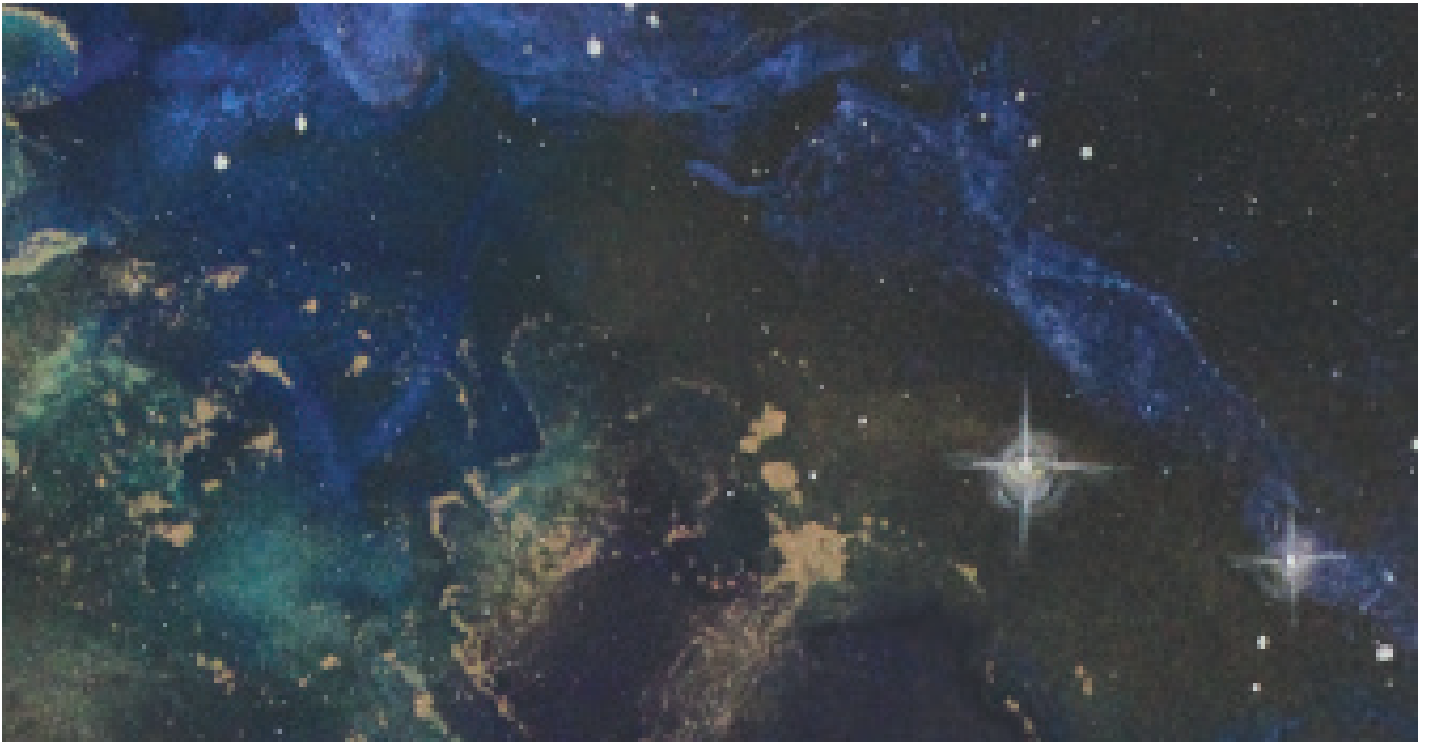
At her prodding (no pun intended), I've been the artist guest of honor at ArmadilloCon and the World Fantasy Convention, both in Austin, TX (a wonderful city I might add). Her efforts opened me up to a convention world I was not aware of. Because of her, I've had the wonderful opportunity to meet many of the publishers, art directors, authors and editors that I have worked with over the years. Thank you, Sara.

And...she still has time for a family. Her husband and two daughters know of her passion regarding art. A while back, I was watching the Home & Garden Television channel (HGTV). What do I see before my eyes but Sara Felix on screen! Her appearance and the projects she demonstrated on HGTV's "Crafters, Coast to Coast", were engaging, to say the least. I thought, "Could I be seeing the dawn of a new Martha Stewart, the ultimate crafter?!!" Watch out, Martha! Sara eventually became something much better, an artist in the truest sense of the word. Like a daughter, I've seen her grow over these last twenty plus years. Congratulations, Sara, on this well deserved honor.





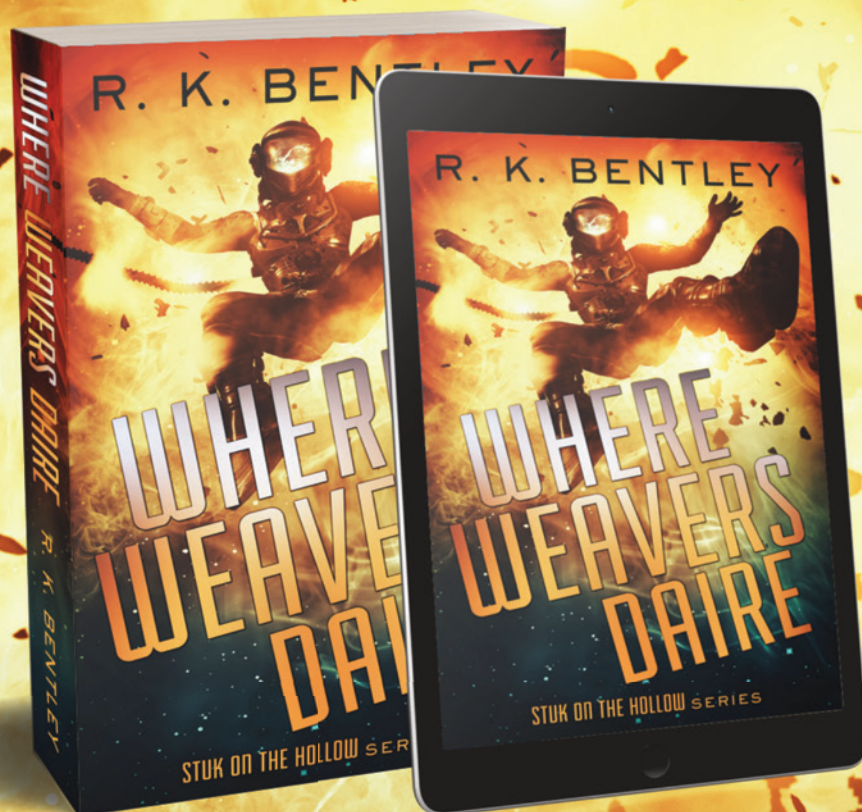








**ON A WORLD WHERE MAGIC, MACHINES AND MORTALS EXIST, SKELETONS OF THE PAST NEVER STAY BURIED FOR LONG, MELINDA SCOTT SHOULD KNOW. SHE JUST FOUND A BIG ONE.**



**"MIND BENDING  
IN A GOOD WAY."**

AMAZON 5 STAR REVIEW

**"IT GRABBED ME FROM  
THE START AND WOULDN'T  
LET GO."**

BOOKBUB REVIEW

**BOOKS2READ.COM/RKBENTLEY**



September 1-5, 2022

Hyatt Regency Chicago

Chicago, Illinois



## GUESTS OF HONOR



**AUTHOR GUEST OF HONOR**  
**CHARLES DE LINT**



**FAN GUESTS OF HONOR**  
**EDIE STERN**  
**AND JOE SICLARI**



**GUEST OF HONOR**  
**ERLE KORSHAK**



**ARTIST GUEST OF HONOR**  
**FLOYD NORMAN**



**GUEST OF HONOR**  
**ERLE KORSHAK**

## FEATURED GUESTS



**DR. EVE L. EWING**



**GENE HA**



**ERIC WILKERSON**



**TOASTMASTERS**  
**ANNALEE NEWITZ AND**  
**CHARLIE JANE ANDERS**



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# Tamsyn Muir Has Always Been This Good

By Brooke Bolander



**I** didn't know I already knew Tamsyn and her work until one day I suddenly *knew*.

The Internet is a weird place, and the Internet of fifteen or twenty years ago was much, much wilder and weirder in a way long since lost. There were less of us around back then. Communities were smaller and more insular, centered on message boards and chatrooms built atop splintered niche interests. Your mom most probably knew nothing about any of it outside her Internet Explorer inbox and wasn't popping onto Facebook to get in a fight with your gym teacher from primary school. Fandoms had their little fiefdoms, and you could end up having soul-baring late night conversations with people whose real names and locations you were only vaguely aware of. This is

how I first met Tamsyn Muir: We were two baby nerds interested in much of the same nerd shit, hanging out in the same tiny nerd communities. We both dabbled in fanfiction. We liked each other's fanfiction. Then, as now, she was soul-searingly good (more on that later) and I routinely prayed to any number of gods both established and newly made up for the purpose that she would keep at it and maybe even eventually bless the world with a big fat novel of some stripe so I could give her money and demand everyone else do so as well.

Time marched cruelly on, the Internet changed its shape, and all those little fan communities slowly drifted apart. I lost track of old friends, many talented writers among them, and all I could do was hope they were hale and hearty and still making words in some capacity. Every time I'd pick up a book by a 'new' author I'd wonder: Was it someone I'd known once upon a time? Was I already a fan? Had we made terrible jokes together at 3 AM in some long-defunct IRC chatroom? Had we beta-read each other's stories in 2003, playing editors for one another before any real editor ever deigned to clap eyes on our work? As I got my own start professionally I came across others who had gotten their sea legs in fandom and we exchanged stories and handles and snippets of hearsay, how so and so was doing and where they had eventually ended up. One of these mutuals assured me that Tamsyn was still writing and doing alright, which was a huge relief

to hear. I knew I might never get to read whatever it was she was currently working on, might never know even if I did, but it was enough to know she was still out there being her brilliant self.

A couple more years passed. Through an extreme stroke of luck I got an ARC of *Gideon the Ninth* in December 2018, eight months before its release. I had been hearing internal buzz about it for months beforehand, people shrieking with joy about this deeply weird, wonderful novel. I had briefly met Muir at the Nebulas in 2016 when we both had work nominated for Best Novelette, had been introduced and even shaken her hand, but didn't know her or her work very well otherwise—or so I thought. I put the ARC in my stack of to-be-reads. My partner Ben, a much quicker reader than I, immediately snatched it up and dug right in. He does that a lot. He's downright vulturesque about the ARCs I get in the mail. He also used to read a lot of fanfic and hung out in the same communities as Tamsyn and I, which is important when noting what happened next.

After a few pages he looked a little puzzled. I asked what was up.

"This is good," he said. "This is ... very, very good."

He went back to reading. Another couple of chapters passed and he spoke up again.

"... This is also stylistically very, very familiar."

He told me who he thought it might be.

Well, goddamn, says I. I look forward to reading it and seeing for myself, in *that* case. I didn't think much of it. I hoped he was right, but who could say?

Eventually he finished and I stole it back and prepared to dig in. I posted about my impending read on Twitter and went to bed that night with it sitting on my bedside table. When I



got up the next morning, there was a message in my inbox from the author that more or less boiled down to *hey uh so I don't know if you remember me but we used to go to Internet High School together and ...*

*"It's her,"* I said, out loud. "IT'S HER."

From beside me in bed, still seemingly passed out face-down in his pillow, without any prior indication as to who the hell I might be talking about, Ben roared a muffled *I KNEW IT!!!!*

Here's a thing you need know about Tamsyn Muir: *She has always been this good.* Before Gideon and Harrow, before the parade of nominations and accolades, before you ever forked out cash for a word of her prose, she was writing at a level I would still—to this very day—eat my own tongue to achieve (your own levels of envy to tongue consumption may vary; I can only speak for myself). There was never the promise of raw potential waiting to be chipped away into something special, the sense that in five or ten years this would be a literary voice to reckon with, because maddeningly she was always *already great*. Muir's base starting point fifteen years ago was better than many seasoned professionals, and in the intervening decade-plus she has somehow only gotten more talented. Getting to watch the rest of the world find out what some of us already knew—our delicious secret, our beloved monster bursting out of the lab to terrorize the unsuspecting villagers while we smile wistfully and wipe proud tears from our crow's feet—has been intensely gratifying on pretty much every level you can think of.

Most writers have some part of the process in particular they excel at. Some of us are better at world-building, while others build crystalline webs of lacy gossamer prose. Many construct plots that spin effortlessly

and intricately; like mechanical nightingales you never notice all the gears that have to fit together inside to make them sing so sweetly. Muir is no slouch at any of these skill sets, but if I had to pinpoint one power her work wields like a two-handed broadsword it would be that mysterious force some find hardest to cultivate: Authorial voice. Her voice is Godzilla. It's an anime duel on top of a flaming zeppelin happening just outside your bedroom window. It's big, it's loud, it has cartoonishly huge biceps (not unlike Gideon herself) and from the very first page it is drunkenly, boisterously headlocking the reader into submission. It's uniquely hers and it sells every single other thing about the books and the characters and the world they're set in before you've made it past the first paragraph. If you know how to wield voice that well, with that much raw power, the reader will buy pretty much anything you throw at them just so they can keep listening—just to see what it reels off next. Characters instantly become real and relatable. It makes you give a damn about them and their troubles. From there it's just a hop, skip, and jump to making you laugh and weep and cheer and draw fanart.

Muir's got a second, equally important superpower: She's funny as hell. A lot of authors try to write comedic prose, and an unfortunate number of these attempts end up either bland or cringeworthy because comedic timing is *really, really hard to nail*. Genuinely funny authors come along maybe a few times a generation. I can count the number of fiction authors who have made me laugh out loud on one hand. I love *Gideon and Harrow* for their characters, the weird and wonderful worldbuilding, and for Muir's aforementioned raw crunching monster truck power with voice, but

also, if I'm being honest here, a large part of the appeal comes from how funny they always are, even at the darkest, most emotional moments. Laughter can be a very powerful thing. It's just one more emotional beat driving your heart into the dirt with the force of an ACME anvil dropped from on high.

When I was twenty-three years old writing fanfiction in a darkened bedroom for an audience of maybe ten people, Muir's writing was the pinnacle; it didn't get much better than her. Twenty-three has long since receded in my rearview mirror and a lot of things in life have changed, but here I am in my late thirties with two real live Muir novels in my hands and somehow she remains That Writer, the maddeningly brilliant aspirational peak you try and live up to every time you sit down to write a sentence. Whenever I read a new work of hers I wonder: *How the hell could she possibly get better than this? She can't get better than this, can she?* And then she goes and writes something else, levels up yet again, and I go, *oh, right. Like that. Well, don't I feel like a fool. But she can't get better than THIS, can she?*

Tamsyn has always been great, but she's also never been satisfied to just sit back and continue being whatever level of great you initially found her at. She's gotta go and keep building new rungs on the ladder to scramble up. I hope this cycle continues for a thousand years. I'm so glad she kept writing, keeps writing, will hopefully continue to write, and that everybody now knows just what a blessing it is on the occasion a new work of hers drops.



# Tim Griffin Has Found His Calling

*By Dr. Leah Hanes, CEO, Two Bit Circus Foundation*

**I** first encountered Tim Griffin and his brilliant music when we were both invited to participate in the Annenberg Foundation's Alchemy Lab, a two-year institute for leaders of exceptional nonprofits creating social change. When each of us was invited to introduce ourselves and our work to the team, Tim gave each of us a CD of his educational songs for kids. Later I put it in my car stereo while driving my grandchildren, and that album did not come out of the player for the Next Six. Years. Imagine my relief when I learned he has actually released more than one album!

Since then, my grandchildren have learned how to correctly identify spiders and insects; read the periodic table of elements; describe Newton's laws of motion and gravity; and explain the components of a eukaryotic cell from listening and singing along to Tim's catchy songs about science and other school subjects.

Better still, Tim has made all of his work (as well as songs from a growing list of collaborators) available for free through his nonprofit,

Griffin Education. In keeping with his background as an elementary teacher, his website ([www.GriffinEd.org](http://www.GriffinEd.org)) is organized like a library so users can easily find songs about, for example, second grade earth science or fifth grade math. He even offers free songwriting residencies (IRL or online) where he works with students to help them research and write songs on academic topics chosen by their teacher!

As the CEO of a science education foundation, I work with hundreds of educators. Tim is the best we have seen when it comes to creating engaging, entertaining, and impactful experiences for teachers and children. He is what nonprofit professionals call a true servant leader, one who inspires and empowers everyone fortunate enough to work with him.



# The E. E. Smith Memorial Award

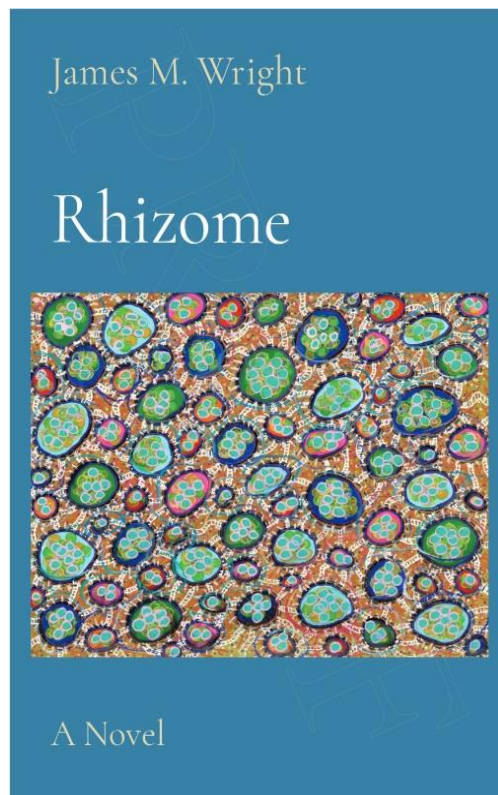


**T**he Edward E. Smith Memorial Award for Imaginative Fiction (the Skylark) is presented annually by NESFA® to some person, who, in the opinion of the membership, has contributed significantly to science fiction, both through work in the field and by exemplifying the personal qualities which made the late "Doc" Smith well-loved by those who knew him. (For further details, see the associated NESFA ByLaw.)

The award consists of a trophy with a large lens. The winner of the award is chosen by vote of the Regular members of the New England Science Fiction Association, Inc. It is presented at Boskone, NESFA's annual convention.

1966	Frederik Pohl†	1994	Esther M. Friesner
1967	Isaac Asimov†	1995	Mike Resnick
1968	John W. Campbell†	1996	Joe & Gay Haldeman
1969	Hal Clement†	1997	Hal Clement†
1970	Judy-Lynn Benjamin del Rey†	1998	James White†
1971	No Award Given	1999	Bob Eggleton
1972	Lester del Rey†	2000	Bruce Coville
1973	Larry Niven	2001	Ellen Asher
1974	Ben Bova†	2002	Dave Langford
1975	Gordon R. Dickson†	2003	Patrick & Teresa Nielsen Hayden
1976	Anne McCaffrey†	2004	George R.R. Martin
1977	Jack Gaughan†	2005	Tamora Pierce
1978	Spider Robinson	2006	David G. Hartwell†
1979	David Gerrold	2007	Beth Meacham
1980	Jack L. Chalker†	2008	Charlie Stross
1981	Frank Kelly Freas†	2009	Sir Terry Pratchett†
1982	Poul Anderson†	2010	Omar Rayyan
1983	Andre Norton†	2011	Lois McMaster Bujold
1984	Robert Silverberg	2012	Sharon Lee & Steve Miller
1985	Jack Williamson†	2013	Ginjer Buchanan
1986	Wilson (Bob) Tucker†	2014	Robert J. Sawyer
1987	Vincent Di Fate	2015	Moshe Feder
1988	C. J. Cherryh	2016	Gardner Dozois†
1989	Gene Wolfe†	2017	Jo Walton
1990	Jane Yolen	2018	Daniel M. Kimmel
1991	David Cherry	2019	Melinda Snodgrass
1992	Orson Scott Card	2020	Betsy Wollheim
1993	Tom Doherty	2021	Anthony R. Lewis

†Deceased



## “You can’t see the forest for the trees.”

Why? Because the heart and mind of the forest do not wave in the wind but dwell underground, within the complex woven soil of fungal threads and plant rhizomes. This mycorrhizal network functions as the core switchboard of the forest, shuttling nutrients, messages, and memories among all the linked entities of the ecosystem. Philosophers call this kind of system a “rhizome.” It is open and connected, both within itself and the greater world without. Contemporary forest ecology sustains these notions, comparing the mycorrhizal forest to the neuronal network of the human brain, a “wood wide web” (term coined by ecologist Suzanne Simard for her 1997 paper in the scientific journal *Nature*).

In Wright’s engaging science fiction novel, a forest mind in a parallel universe has penetrated the membrane into our world. Seeking to expand its mutualistic network, it joins with a diversity of beings in symbiosis. Yet despite its vast resources, the forest mind has vulnerabilities. When it is forced to grapple with an extinction crisis caused by humans, it seeks an unlikely alliance—with a damaged young man who has given up on his kind, someone willing to risk everything in an attempt to consciously shape evolution itself.

WHAT READERS SAY: “Love this book ... one of the better books I have read....” “...timely, idyllic, humorous, tragic, frightening and fantastic....” “...a compelling story ... intelligent handling of complicated ideas....” “palpable and real ... can’t put it down....” “Your work got under my skin, haunted me ... it inhabited my soul, my spirit, my dream life.”

RHIZOME by James M. Wright; ISBN 978-0-578-86734-2; Metamorphic Press 2021, 440 pages. Available through bookstores, online bookdealers, and the author’s website: [www.wrightjamesm.com](http://www.wrightjamesm.com).

JAMES M. WRIGHT lives with his dear wife in a creaky old house on the coast of Maine. He worked for thirty-five years as a psychotherapist specializing in family therapy and wilderness-based therapy. Before that he planted hundreds of thousands of trees in the industrial forest of the Pacific Northwest. During those years he lived off the grid, built log cabins, learned how to lay stone, and survived numerous exploits of mountaineering, rock climbing, and backcountry skiing. He is the author of two previous books: *The Gorge of Despair* (2018), a mountaineering novel, and *Mirror of Beasts: Episodes of a Reflected Ecology* (2013), a psychoecological investigation of encounters with wild animals. A fantasy novel, *The Kraken Imaginary*, is forthcoming from Montag Press (2022).

The author at Hampstead Heath, London. Photo by Susan T. Landry.

