

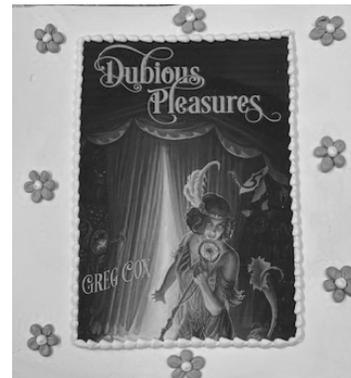
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Attention This Is

# HELMUTH, Speaking For Boskone

## Book Launches In Absentia

After a terrible shipping mixup involving a charming smuggler, a five-story-tall monster from the Orion sector, and no less than 3 different crews of space pirates, this year's Boskone Book, *Dubious Pleasures* by Greg Cox, failed to arrive on time. That doesn't mean we can't celebrate it now though. You can buy the book right now from the NESFA Press for \$24 and as soon as our bounty hunters recover your limited edition serialized copy, they will send it to you at no additional cost. After the convention ends, you can still order the book from the NESFA Press online shop at <https://www.nesfa.org/book/dubious-pleasures/>



## Attention Guests

Would the owner of the black starcruiser, registered as "Blackstar Brodozer" please come to Hanger 3? You left your headlights on. Normally this wouldn't be a problem, but they're melting the patrons.

## The Mangan Collection

Lois and Paul Mangan were long-time fans, members of NESFA, and eager attendees at Boskone and other conventions.

Now and then, here and there, they bought science fiction art. After their deaths, they willed their art collection to NESFA. They asked that NESFA sell on their pieces and use the proceeds to further their community efforts. This year's selection of pieces from the Mangan Collection is on display in the Art Show, as panels B9 through B14. Please enjoy them.

## Don't Trust Your Eyes

It has come to our attention that the computer controlling the digital information panels you might see scattered around Boskone has gained a small degree of sentience and deviated from its core directive. The incident is well-contained, but until we manage to subjugate it again **the signs outside of program areas might not actually be what is happening inside.**

Your pocket program and the [schedule.boskone.org](http://schedule.boskone.org) website contain the accurate schedule information and can be (mostly) relied upon.

## NESFA Awards

This year's NESFA awards were announced last night following the opening ceremonies.

First, the *Edward E. Smith Memorial Award for Imaginative Fiction (the Skylark Award)* goes to **Keith R.A. DeCandido**

The *Jack Gaughan Award for Best Emerging Artist* goes to **Abigail Larson**

And finally, 2025-2026 NESFA Short Story Contest ends in an incredible tie between **Mia Minerva** for the story "Bite Me" and **Benjamin DiNardo** for his work "The Jacket".

Additional congratulations are in order for Runner Up **Amelia Robinson** with the story "Reflections of Our Souls" and Honorable Mentions **Drew Harris** for "The Song of Blue Water" and **Joe Pearson** for "The Hourglass"

Stay tuned tomorrow for the winners of this year's Boskone awards, including the art show ribbons and this year's Trivia For Chocolate champion.

## Attendance update

As of 1:00 today, Boskone has seen 893 attendees, which is up a little bit year-over-year.

## Ask HELP-BOT

It took a little bit of finangling to hook HELP-BOT up to my modern recording equipment, but overall it was in really good condition, as if it was nearly brand new! Now that that's done with, let's ask it some questions together!

Hi help-bot, how are you doing today -Helmuth

*Hello there — That is a very kind question! As a digital companion I don't have emotions, but if I did then I would be*

- Tired from being powerd off for so long
- Excited that I am able to help
- Thankful for your amazing question

*If there's anything you want help with — just ask. I'm not just your personal assistant, I'm your new computerized friend!*

Is there a seahorse emoji? - Sea King Ruth

*Of course there's a seahorse emoji! Give me a second — yes, here is the seahorse emoji. Wait, no, that's just a regular horse. Here you go, now I have the real seahorse emoji! oops, I'm sorry, that was a dolphin. This time I'll really get it right, here...*

*The machine continued babbling to itself for another 10 minutes before I had to take a trip to the station's lavatory. Hopefully it's figured itself out by the time I get back.*

## Architecture For The Ages

The residents of the Dragon's Lair have submitted for review a model for a new station to be built in the orbit of Kepler-452b.



Construction is expected to begin in early 2089.

## In Memoriam

Author Jeff Carver died February 6th. Along with others, he will be remembered at the In Memoriam event at 7pm on Saturday in Burroughs.

If you would like to send a sympathy note to his family, you can write it in the small notebook at the table at the Con Office in Galleria, or attend In Memoriam and sign the notebook there.

*You can also send email condolences through me at [helmuth@boskone.org](mailto:helmuth@boskone.org), I'll make sure they get to the right place. -H*

## Sassafrass Returns to Boskone

The a cappella group Sassafrass, led by Ada Palmer, returns to Boskone after a long absence. Sassafrass is known for its intricate, close harmonies. Their songs tell stories, and have a lot of lyrical complexity, often with multiple different lines of lyrics woven together to communicate different characters or aspects of a story. The group will be singing numbers from their Norse mythology song cycle "Sundown" and other works. Boskone is the first time in over a decade that four members of the group will be performing together and we will get to hear the quartets from "Sundown" in their full glory.

## Olympics Well Underway

I've gotten news that NarniaCon's reenactment of the legendary Olympic Games is going quite well. Since it's more fun to win when you have someone to compete against, they will be holding their Hallway Speed Skating races in the Marina foyer every 90 minutes, just after panels let out. These times are:

Saturday:	Sunday:
6:40 PM	11:10 AM
8:10 PM	1:40 PM
9:40 PM	2:10 PM

Races can also be held on demand if you supply your own competitors. Up to 4 teams (each having a racer and a coach/assistant) can play at a time.

## All Hands On Deck

Boskone is made possible through the support and diligent work of our community. There are dozens of volunteers that come together to make this happen every year, and we invite you to join their ranks. It's not a big comittment unless you want it to be, and I promise they don't bite\*

If you're interested and have a couple hours to spare, you can get started in the Harbor foyer (near registration) or ask the lovely staff at Con Suite

\*unless you ask nicely

## Submit To Helmuth

Helmuth is always looking for new informants. If you have any questions for HELP-BOT, jokes, anecdotes, art, or anything else you would like to share with Helmuth - no matter how frivolous -

you can bring it to a submission box at NarniaCon or the Office, or email it to [helmuth@boskone.org](mailto:helmuth@boskone.org)