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Editor: Alan Bostick

Cover art by Lee Abuabara

Proofreaders: Debbie Notkin, Lisa Ekstein, Keyan Bowes

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Welcome to FOGcon 9!

The FOGcon committee is always glad to welcome our members to each convention ... and this year we are *especially* pleased to be able to do so. The universe did not want us to hold FOGcon this year; we faced an unprecedented number of obstacles to staffing and moving forward: virtually everyone on the initial committee had life events that slowed them down or prevented them from doing some or all of what they had committed to do, and wanted to do. There were moments when we really thought we might have to write to our honored guests and registered members and say, “You know that convention we wanted to have? Well ...”

But in the great spirit of science fiction fandom – which is no different than the great spirit of any community-based endeavor – folks who *could* do various tasks stepped in for folks who *couldn't*. People we'd never met stepped up to join us when people we'd known for years had to step back. The most inspiring result of all this is that we have put together an extraordinary convention: membership is back up from last year; the program is (we think) one of the best we've ever put together; we've deepened our relationship with the hotel and fixed some rough spots that have plagued us in the past.

As we open the doors on FOGcon 9, we can hope that it will run smoothly, and that payback for the challenging planning process will be minimal challenges during the convention itself. If that turns out to be wrong, we now know how good we are at rolling with the punches. As members of the convention, we're counting on you to help where you see needs, and ask about whatever you can't find or can't figure out.

However these three days play out, we're all committed to doing whatever we can to make sure all of you enjoy yourselves, find stimulation for your brain and your heart, get an opportunity to connect with our marvelous honored guests, meet new people (if you want to) and, at the end of the weekend, are glad that you came.

Honored guests Becky Chambers and Karen Joy Fowler, and honored ghost Ursula K. Le Guin, are celebrated in later pages of this book. So we'll just extend a special welcome to Becky and Karen, and to the spirit of Ursula, and an equally special welcome to each and every one of you: in the most literal sense, we couldn't do this without you.

Convention Committee

Project managers: Elisabeth Hermens, Kerry Ellis, Debbie Notkin

Programming: Steven Schwartz, Eva Folsom

Game Room Programming: Micah Joel

Honored Guest Liaison: Crystal Huff

Online schedule: BC Holmes

Registration: Heather Rose Jones

Treasurer: Kerry Ellis

Hotel: Sasha Pixlee

Volunteers: Debbie Notkin, Michele Cox

Hospitality: Melissa Dunlap

Logistics: Wendy Shaffer

Website: Alyc Helms

Database: Wendy Shaffer

Publications; Montse Cordero, Alan Bostick

Program book cover: Lee Abuabara

Dealers' Room: Jennifer Brooks

Writers' Workshop: Keyan Bowes

Honored Guest Becky Chambers



Becky Chambers: Space Is a Place for Everybody

By Clarissa C. S. Ryan

All you can do, Rosemary – all any of us can do – is work to be something positive instead. That is a choice that every sapient must make every day of their life. The universe is what we make of it. It’s up to you to decide what part you will play.”

— Becky Chambers, *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet*

Becky Chambers is a returned Californian who has also lived in Iceland and Scotland. She comes from a space-studying, if not space-faring, family. Her name was familiar to many of us who read *The Toast* or *The Mary Sue*, where she wrote thoughtful pieces on games and more, before we encountered any of her fiction.

Chambers has said that when she wrote *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet*, she wasn’t sure whether anyone “would want to read a quiet little slice-of-life that takes place on an ugly spaceship owned by a pacifist captain.”¹

That’s an understandable concern. English-language genre novels in the slice-of-life mode barely exist. But

¹ Becky Chambers quoted in Lulu Khadim, “An Interview with Becky Chambers.” *Strange Horizons*, issue 29, October 2018.

science fiction and fantasy slice-of-life is certainly a thing, and a thing that I love, in other languages and cultures. SFF slice-of-life and “healing” stories are fairly easy to find in, for example, Japanese TV dramas or comics.

Not so in the English-language genre publishing world. In fact, there’s so little of it that the pace and focus of *The Long Way* took many readers by surprise. Fortunately, it proved to be a good surprise for most of us, netting award nominations and one of the most robust word-of-mouth referral armies that I’ve ever encountered. For example, it’s been recommended dozens and dozens of times on ask.metafilter.com in answer to requests ranging from “Making a house feel like a home: literary edition” and “I want spaceship books!” to “Sci fi as self-care” and “Books with the same mouthfeel as Steven Universe.”

“Ninety percent of all problems are caused by people being assholes.”

“What causes the other ten percent?” asked Kizzy.

“Natural disasters,” said Nib.

— Becky Chambers, *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet*

The *Wayfarer* series is unlike other science fiction futures. It’s a peek at a universe wherein people can be decent, be different, support each other, and have adventures in space—without imperial, military trappings. The adventures aren’t big, not in the way that massive battles among galactic fleets are. At the same time, the stories that play out in the *Wayfarers* series, whether in kitchens or scrap shops, *are* big. Finding one’s true home, unlearning a prejudice, finding a family, falling in love, uncovering hope: nothing is more enormous than these moments of the heart.

The emotional resonance in the *Wayfarers* books is what gives them that TARDIS-like quality of being bigger on the inside than on the outside. This pairs well with the other qualities of science fiction that many of us love: vivid and diverse characters and settings, other worlds that feel real, imaginative technology, and the sweep of stars. Like a lot of other readers, I’ve successfully recommended the series to a far wider range of friends and family members than I might usually, from people who don’t read science fiction at all to my father-in-law, who’s usually into classic adventure sci fi.

The *Wayfarers* series began in 2014 with *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet*, which itself started life as a legendary self-publishing Kickstarter success. The novel was then picked up by a publisher, and since then two equally outstanding sequels (*A Closed and Common Orbit*, *Record of a Spaceborn Few*) have come out. Chambers has also written short stories, essays, and an episodic science-fiction thriller for Serial Box, *The Vela*, together with Yoon Ha Lee, Rivers Solomon, and S. L. Huang.

*We don't see space as something that everyone can be a part of... This is a story about the ordinary people living within an intergalactic society, the people who walk through the spaceport behind the heroes, who are normally not at the forefront of the story. That was my main driving force when writing [The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet].*²

I'm writing this appreciation on the last night of a convention. Earlier, I was in the audience for a panel with TV writers, who asserted that writing toward moral themes makes it hard to tell a good story. Hard in a bad way, that is; not challenging in a good way. I've heard arguments along these lines many times: Stories should just be stories. Lessons are for fables. Don't let your opinions inform your work. And I've also encountered the ideas that tragedy makes literature, that grimdark stories are more realistic and thus desirable, or that we are left with only apocalyptic futures and should start preparing for them.

I reject all of these claims, with Chambers' work as Exhibit A. Becky Chambers tells stories that let us dream bigger, that remind us to hold on to our humanity, and to find reasons for hope. (And, also, to always enjoy our food—and everything else that makes a place into a home, a person into a friend, and friends into family.)

Storytelling is always reflective of the times in which we live, and we're living in an era where we're dealing with problems on a planetary scale. We're dealing with messy, ugly social issues, and it's a scary time in a lot of ways. I don't think it's any accident that a lot of the science fiction we're seeing tends to be very near future, post-apocalyptic, or very grim in tone. We're afraid of our future, we're afraid of what's going to happen next. I think that it's important to have stories that reflect what we're feeling right

2 Becky Chambers quoted in Alyssa Favreau, "Interview: Becky Chambers on *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet* & Writing Welcoming Science Fiction." *The Mary Sue*, August 1st, 2016.

*now, but it's equally important to have stories that give us something to hope for. There's no point to surviving if you're not aiming for something better.*³

—
Clarissa C. S. Ryan is a science fiction and fantasy writer (as C.C.S. Ryan), with stories published in Fireside Magazine and Farstrider.

The Wayfarers Trilogy

By Amanda Folsom

I love reading Becky Chambers' books, the *Wayfarers* trilogy! They are full of humor and fun, but also incorporate some important ethical issues, such as AI rights, child labor, and cloning. Becky Chambers weaves her plots well, combining montage and detailed styles. Her characters are realistic — one could almost imagine them walking, wheeling, or shambling down the street — yet with amazingly imaginative backgrounds! Becky Chambers' books are excellent sci-fi, easily read no matter what mood one's in — down and looking for a fun read, or if one wants to reflect upon a deeply moving story, or if they're just good books on the shelves!

—
Amanda Folsom is a student, who lives near Portland, Oregon.

3 Becky Chambers quoted in Alyssa Favreau, "Interview: Becky Chambers on *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet* & Writing Welcoming Science Fiction." *The Mary Sue*, August 1st, 2016.

Honored Guest Karen Joy Fowler



Wonderful Person Writing Wonderful Books

By Keyan Bowes

Karen Joy Fowler is a wonderful person who writes wonderful books. But that's not all.

Her six novels and three short-story collections are each carefully-wrought, acutely observed. Karen has an ability to get under the superficial stuff, to find the layers beneath. Her books win all sorts of awards, they land on the New York Times best-seller list, and each one is a jewel. (Among the awards: The World Fantasy Award, several times; the Nebula Award; the Shirley Jackson Award; Specsavers National Book Awards for International Author of the Year - a UK award now called the British Book Awards; the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.)

And similarly, for the reader, these books aren't page-turners. (Well, they can be, but that's not the best way to read them.) These are books are best savored, slowly, like a particularly excellent wine. The language is a joy to read. Issues are drawn out and then examined from every angle so the truth reveals itself gradually. The satire is incisive – but humane. The subtle humor, the quiet character-building make the novels full of discovery.

Her books don't conform to any genre. They are science fiction, they are fantasy, they are surrealist, they are literary fiction. It doesn't really matter; they transcend genre definitions. But they're always focused on people, on human beings, and their relationships – and thus the many manifestations and kinds of friendship. The *Jane Austen*

Book Club, for instance, is all about friendship – and though it has no speculative component, science fiction is an important part of the story.

Beyond being a writer, Karen's a friend to the SFF community. With Pat Murphy, she founded the Tiptree Award. That award, which describes itself as "An award encouraging the exploration and expansion of gender" was named for James Tiptree Jr – for years assumed to be a male author before being revealed as the pen name of Alice B. Sheldon. This revelation prompted a great discussion about gendered writing. This exploration was something that Karen and Pat wanted to continue. And here we are, nearly 30 years later, with an award that does just that.

Karen is also the President of the Clarion Foundation, responsible for putting on the renowned Clarion Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers' Workshop, which moved from Michigan to San Diego, California, in 2006.

Which brings us to Karen as a teacher. One of my favorite quotes from her is actually from a 2004 interview in the online magazine *Strange Horizons*: "*I love talking about writing, I love thinking about writing, I love hearing how other people read things, and how they organize their own work. And I always, always, really like the students.*" Her reputation as a teacher is crucial to the influence she has on the field, on a generation of new writers.

I first met Karen when she was my instructor at Clarion San Diego. What I wrote then: She "brought a sense of history and humor to the proceedings. The ghosts of Clarion Past were unearthed and exhibited; wackiness ensued. She also had a lot of suggestions for novice writers, often couched as 'Don't...(whatever it is). Nothing good will come of it.' And, 'She had an apparently endless supply of anecdotes about the Great and Venerated, and crisp descriptions of clay feet.'"

If you're lucky enough to get into a conversation with her, that same subtle sense of humor, and her wide-ranging interests soon become evident. They are delightful.

Keyan Bowes is a writer of science fiction and fantasy who is based in San Francisco.

Honored Ghost Ursula K. Le Guin

Compiled by Debbie Notkin

Ursula K. Le Guin (1929-2018) is a titanic figure of American literature. When she died last year, the outpouring of grief and remembrance was prodigious. The tributes page on her website has well over 100 separate links, including 11 in Swedish and one in Spanish. Many of those links go to remarks by multiple people.

For her Honored Ghost role at FOGcon, the committee decided not to commission a new essay, but to cherry-pick from this wealth of options. Perhaps unsurprisingly, many of the people who wrote about Le Guin also quoted her, so these sample memories are interspersed with quotations from the author herself. In part because the choices were so difficult, these are skewed toward the FOGcon 9 theme of friendship, and the closely related skills and metaphors of domesticity. To read more, go to <http://www.ursulaklequin.com/UKLTributes.html>.

Stephanie Smith, writing in Exposure, UFL College of Arts and Letters:

Ursula helped me find a job as a typesetter — work now made obsolete by computers — through a friend at *Willamette Week*, Portland's alternative paper. I worked a night shift, so during the day I'd haul myself up the hill to the Le Guin's house; Ursula would meet me at the door, and then she would go off to her study, which had a grand view of Mt. St. Helen's or what was left of it; I would go off to a spare bedroom and we'd both write all morning (by hand or on portable typewriters). Around lunch, we'd meet for a pot of tea in the spacious, cozy kitchen, and then I'd go catch a quick nap and shower at the Red House, before taking the bus downtown to my night-shift; sometimes, as I've said, I would house-and-cat-sit for the Le Guins; when they couldn't or didn't want to use their opera subscription tickets, they gave one to me; if they saw me walking home as I sometimes did to save bus fare, they'd give me a lift; later on, I joined some private tai-chi lessons with them, in their living room; Ursula lent me books, talked with me about those books, and literature, music, art.

Ursula K. Le Guin, writing in the *New Yorker*, October 17, 2016:

An artist can go off into the private world they create, and maybe not be so good at finding the way out again. This could be one reason I've always been grateful for having a family and doing housework and the stupid ordinary stuff that has to be done that you cannot let go.

Valerie Stivers, writing in *The Paris Review*, remembered *Le Guin* by making a menu from *The Left Hand of Darkness*:

The other tent-trip staple was “gichy-michy,” a kind of nutrition bar I imagined to be made with the “eternal breadapples” [narrator and protagonist Genly] Ai mentions. At first, I tried to find breadfruit to combine with apple to make a sort of bread-apple, but it's out of season. Star apples exist but have a slimy, okra-like texture not conducive to being baked (I tried). I ended up making nutty whole-wheat bars with a combination of apples and cranberries, which seemed appropriately wintry, and threw in some purple dragonfruit for alien flair.

Ursula K. Le Guin, writing at bookviewcafe.org, refuses to extend Stivers' experiments to fiction:

The way to make something good is to make it well

If the ingredients are extra good (truffles, vivid prose, fascinating characters) that's a help. But it's what you do with them that counts. With the most ordinary ingredients (potatoes, everyday language, commonplace characters) — and care and skill in using them — you can make something extremely good.

Inexperienced writers tend to seek the recipes for writing well. You buy the cookbook, you take the list of ingredients, you follow the directions, and behold! A masterpiece! The Never-Falling Soufflé!

Wouldn't it be nice? But alas, there are no recipes.

Sarah Sloane, *Colorado State University English Department multiple-faculty tribute*:

As I was flipping through the notebook [in a cabin at a writers' residency] I saw a drawing and stopped. It was an outline of a lizard, I thought, or maybe some moister wood creature. It took a minute before I realized it must be a salamander, although now I know through looking up salamanders in that area, that it was probably an *Ensatina* salamander. Next to the amphibian's outline was a short, simple entry about finding this salamander just outside my cabin's Dutch door, a sticky pink amphibian sunning himself on the stone stoop. All the detail of that creature—his size, the shape and direction of his body, the quality of his tail—were painstakingly described by the writer/artist who turned out to be, yes, Ursula Le Guin. For it turned out that a year or two before, Ursula Le Guin had lived and written inside my same cabin. Her drawing and spare words in the journal were what she had left behind.

In the middle of entries marked by self-preoccupation or discursive sections on hot tub plumbing, Ursula Le Guin found what to write about in a creature a few inches big living just outside her door. “Pay attention,” Le Guin’s drawing of a salamander said to me. Ignore the parties and the plumbing pay attention to what small things live right in front of you.

Anand Chakraborty, writing in *dhakatribune.com*

You take a dragon (one of Le Guin’s most brilliant re-inventions). A dragon is that hoary old standard of fantasy, and this poor creature is now waiting on some cliff-top, tired and exhausted at having been cast in so many tales and parables down the ages. He wants some rest, some well deserved shut-eye. But soon comes hobbling down the road an old woman with a twinkle in her eye, and she proceeds to sit down beside him. The dragon senses her presence, braces for yet another request to star in a quest, a razing of towns, a romance. But this woman merely wants to speak to someone at the end of her long journey uphill. Just that. And the dragon is, for once, asked about his views on the world ... just a conversation, really.

Luis Alberto Urrea, at his website, about an early Le Guin workshop he was part of:

I wrote some science fictional potboiler. It was so bad I don’t even have a copy of it anymore. But she singled out a passage for praise. I knew it was the only really good thing in the story because I had plagiarized it from her.

“That’s a very interesting bit of cultural detail,” she said.

“I know,” I said. “I stole it from you.”

“What!”

“It comes from *The Word for World is Forest*.”

She stared at me like some irritated hawk. Then she exploded in laughter. That famous laughter.

“Excellent choice!” she noted.

Nisi Shawl, writing in the *Seattle Times*:

Basically, she was [people of color’s] best and most powerful ally. She made our presence in her stories a matter of course. The brown-skinned inhabitants of Earthsea, for instance, site of her acclaimed children’s fantasy series, made people of color intrinsic to an earlier generation’s Harry Potter. The black-and-white romance at the heart of *The Lathe of Heaven* validated the realities of racism we face. Over and over Ursula showed us we were indisputably part of imaginative literature — at least as far as she was concerned. As her impact on the field increased, our place in it grew more and more assured.

A common observation about how Ursula K. Le Guin affected speculative fiction is that she widened it. She did that in part by bringing it to the attention of critics in the habit of glaring disparagingly at it down their academic noses. But as far as I’m concerned she expanded it primarily by including me and mine within its boundaries.

Ursula K. Le Guin, in *The Left Hand of Darkness*:

It is a terrible thing, this kindness that human beings do not lose. Terrible, because when we are finally naked in the dark and cold, it is all we have. We who are so rich, so full of strength, we end up with that small change. We have nothing else to give.

John Scalzi, writing in the *Los Angeles Times*:

The speaking of her name and of her words goes on, and will go on, today and tomorrow and for a very long time now. As it should. She was the mother of so many of us, and you should take time to mourn your mother.

Karen Joy Fowler, writing in *The Library of America website*:

There are so many things to say about Ursula, but I don’t want this one to get lost—how often and how beautifully she gave voice to our fellow animals, in all their unknowable mystery. She never took sides or got sentimental; she was a great cat lover—those adorable killing machines. But she gave every creature the courtesy of her attention and curiosity. And how many other authors have tried to write a story in the voice of a tree? Much less pulled it off?

Ursula K. Le Guin, in *The Dispossessed*:

... day to day, life’s a hard job, you get tired, you lose the pattern. You need distance, interval. The way to see how beautiful the earth is, is to see it as the moon. The way to see how beautiful life is, is from the vantage point of death.

Debbie Notkin blogs at Body Impolitic along with Laurie Toby Edison.

Hotel

The main convention function space is the entire area one (whole) floor below the ground-floor lobby, accessible by both elevators and the stairs to your right as you come in the main doors. Convention registration is in the main lobby on that level. You'll find programming both directly beyond the registration space and also down the hall to your right as you face the registration table. The UnAward Banquet will be in the Contra Costa Ballroom, on the level halfway between the function space and the lobby.

The hospitality suite is Room 586, on the fourth floor. Whether or not you are staying in the hotel, your valet parking will be free if you tell the valet you're with FOGcon; however, we (and the valets) will appreciate it if you give them a tip for their time. Your in-room wifi is also free, as is wifi on the conference levels. Hotel guests have access to the heated outdoor pool and the fitness center.

The Walnut Creek Room is immediately to your left as you come into the hotel. This room is brand-new and is not on the hotel map, but is easy to find. FOGcon is reserving it as a quiet room, a place to chill and not interact with other people. Please respect the purpose of the quiet room, and don't go in unless you are prepared to be quiet, and leave anyone else using the room alone. It will be open during all programming hours.

The hotel restaurant, Atrio, on the ground floor, is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, including a breakfast buffet. Atrio's prices run from about \$12-14 for salads and sandwiches to \$17-40 for full dinners. On the way in to Atrio, you'll find the bar and lounge, which is open until 9:00 PM for food service and until midnight or later for drinks if there's enough interest. There is fresh-brewed Starbucks coffee, as well as alcohol, in the lounge.

Please bring questions or concerns about the hotel during the convention to one of the designated Safety first responders, one of the FOGcon project managers, or your trusty hotel liaison, and we'll do our best to help.

Registration

Registration will be open on Thursday from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, on Friday from 10:30 AM to 9:00 PM, on Saturday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, and from Sunday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. For registration outside of posted hours, check the registration desk for options.

Consuite

The Consuite is in Room 586, on the fifth floor. Come by to grab some refreshments and meet your friends at the con. We'll have snacks and drinks to accommodate a fair range of diets; we'll do our best to have ingredient lists available and avoid cross-contamination.

The Consuite will be open on Friday from 3:00 PM to 1:00 AM, on Saturday from 8:00 AM to 1:00 AM, and on Sunday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Dealers' Room

Salon D/E

The dealers' room will have books, comics, jewelry and art. The room will be open on Friday from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM, on Saturday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, and on Sunday from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Game Room

Salon C

Come and enjoy a friendly board or card game with your fellow convention attendees.

We plan to have the game room open for the following hours; we may open earlier or stay open later based on interest and available volunteer game room hosts:

The Game Room will be open on Friday from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM, on Saturday from 10:00 AM to 11:00 PM, and on Sunday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Child Care

Child care at FOGcon is provided by Abundant Beginnings (www.abundantbeginnings.org). Child care sign-ups should have been completed before the convention begins; however, if you have a child at FOGcon, check with Registration to see if space is available. We will charge you a slight premium for at-convention registration. Child care is located in Room 530.

Programming, Friday, March 8

75 Minute Writing Workout

Salon A/B • 1:30–2:45 PM

Hone your fiction-writing skills in a timed environment.

All writers are welcome.

#75MinuteWritingWorkout

Vylar Kaftan

Friends and Chosen Family?

Sacramento • 3:00–4:15 PM

As in the real world, many characters in fiction are estranged from their birth families (and some may not have a birth family at all). How do we define chosen family versus close friends? Is it a difference in degree or in kind? Is there a line, and where is it drawn? What do we gain and lose from using these different ways of talking about people in our lives? How do we, and the characters we love build families of choice? What are some of our favorite examples from fiction?

#FriendsOrChosenFamily

M: Debbie Notkin, Nabil Hijazi, E.M. Markoff, Guy W. Thomas

Debut Author Lessons

Salon F • 3:00–4:15 PM

How do you sign books? What's the etiquette when talking to bookstores? Join our panel of authors, some brand new, others with several books behind them, as they discuss the things every debut author needs to know, from signing contracts to signing books.

#DebutAuthorLessons

M: Vylar Kaftan, Tyler Hayes, Tina Myers, Loren Rhoads

In The Dark Times

Salon A/B • 3:00–4:15 PM

What is a literature for the dark times? 10 years ago, dystopias seemed to make sense, calling attention to widening inequality, as did political movements such as Occupy. Now, however, the filters are off, and many readers are members of the precariat, as well as being aware of the violence that underlies our way of life. So what does this mean for science fiction? In some of Ursula K. LeGuin's fiction she writes of societies that for the most part meet human needs and she explores the stories that would take place in those worlds. Is this a productive direction for writers, or just another way of putting our heads in the sand?

#InTheDarkTimes

M: Garrett Calcaterra, Laura Blackwell, Becky Chambers, Elizabeth Forest, Bradford Lyau

Reading: Dominica Phetteplace, Micah Joel, and Earl Roske

Santa Rosa • 3:00–4:15 PM

#ReadingPhetteplaceJoelRoske

Micah Joel, Dominica Phetteplace, Earl T. Roske

Set Up Crew: Game Room

Salon C • 3:00–4:15 PM

Hang out in the game room while we get things situated. Bring your own games for others to enjoy. A check-out sheet will be provided to keep track of what's what.

#SetUp

What Did We (Un)Learn Here?

Sacramento • 4:30–5:45 PM

Science fiction and fantasy are often called a literature of ideas. The literature and media we consume is a part of what forms our worldview and most of us can point to books and stories that shaped how we understand the world we live in. Oftentimes, as we grow and learn about the world we need to un-learn things we had previously internalized. What are some stories, books and writers who once informed our worldview but that we have moved past? What experiences, books, or stories opened our eyes and taught us to see things in a different way?

#Whatdidweunlearnhere

M: Michele Cox, Crystal Huff, Emma Humphries, Sasha Pixlee, Effie Seiberg

Speculative Motherhood

Salon F • 4:30–5:45 PM

Very few SFF stories feature moms. In stories about children or teens, mothers are frequently dead or missing. Yet moms are rarely the main characters in stories for adults, and the roles mothers can play in stories when they do appear are generally limited. Why doesn't speculative media spend more time showing women as caretakers and active parents as the heroes of stories? Speculative fiction is uniquely situated to tell stories about the changing roles of mothers in society. What are some ways that SFF could explore parenthood? What are some stories that do exist that feature moms?

#SpeculativeMotherhood

Anna Blumstein, Karen Joy Fowler, Eileen Gunn, Anne Leonard, Deborah J. Ross

It's Dangerous to Go Alone! Take This: Writer Support Networks in the Bay Area

Salon A/B • 4:30–5:45 PM

Scene: The writer types alone, perhaps with a bottle of bourbon for companionship and a cat on the lap. The writing lifestyle is often portrayed as solitary, but as with all careers, writers need support to improve and to get their work seen by the wider world. Come learn what resources are available for speculative fiction writers in the Bay Area, from critique groups, to marketing, to writing classes, to kicking back and talking writer shop with others going through the creative struggle of the written word.

#ItsDangeroustoGoAlone

Karen Brenchley, Rebecca Gomez Farrell, Megan E. O'Keefe, Dominica Phetteplace

Reading: Katharine Kerr, Laura Davy, and Matt Maxwell

Santa Rosa • 4:30–5:45 PM

#ReadingKerrDavyMaxwell

Open gaming hour

Salon C • 4:30–5:45 PM

Hang out in the game room and join in a variety of games for ages 9 to 99.

#GameRoom

Opening Ceremonies

Salon A/B • 7:45–8:00 PM

We'll start the convention off with a brief gathering to meet the Honored Guests and hear some words from the Honored Ghost.

#OpeningCeremonies

How to Design a Panel

Sacramento • 8:00–9:15 PM

Everyone loves the panels. But not everyone knows how to make sure one runs well, or how to take a flash of an idea and turn it into a panel. This panel will cover how to develop a topic of interest, perhaps give people a look behind the curtain of Scheduledome (where the FOGcon schedule is made), and how to prepare for, and run, a successful panel (or be a successful panelist, if you're not running the show)

#HowtoDesignaPanel

Alan Bostick, Emma Humphries, Heather Rose Jones, Debbie Notkin

Life in Closed Systems

Salon F • 8:00–9:15 PM

Many stories take place in small closed spaces in the void like space stations or generation ships. For example in *The Exodus Fleet* in Becky Chambers' *Wayfarers* series, *Prosper Station* in *On Red Station*, *Drifting* by Aliette de Bodard and *Kline Station* in *Ethan of Athos* by Lois McMaster Bujold. What might daily life on such a ship or station be like? What kinds of ecosystems could be created to support life in space, and what kinds of social systems? What types of social and physical systems are necessary to survive? Population control? Gardens? Rationing? Eating bugs?

#LifeinClosedSystems

Anna Blumstein, Becky Chambers, Clint, David D. Levine, Daniel Marcus

Just What Is She Looking For

Salon A/B • 8:00–9:15 PM

Many science fiction narratives about men involve a journey towards power, or towards good slaying evil. The journey for women heroes in science fiction often revolves around finding connection such as in Becky Chambers, *The Long Way to a Small Angry Planet*, or in the collaborative books by Patricia Wrede and Caroline Stevenmer, or in the slipstream novel by Karen Joy Fowler, *We Are All Completely Besides Ourselves*. This panel would consider the quest/path/motion in narratives by women writers.

#JustWhatIsSheLookingFor

Karen Brenchley, Marion Deeds, Karen Joy Fowler, Ellen Kushner, Dominica Phetteplace

Reading: Nancy Jane Moore, Andrew Roberts, Garrett Croker

Santa Rosa • 8:00–9:15 PM
#ReadingMooreRobertsCroker

ConTenTion!

Sacramento • 9:30–10:45 PM
What do SF/F fans love as much as their genre? Arguing about their genre! We gather up arguments (from the serious to the silly) and give them a few rounds each, with people from the audience free to argue either side, both sides, or switch back and forth. Bring your favorite arguments, and bring your rhetorical mindset to our festival of good-spirited argumentation!
#ConTenTion
Steven Schwartz

Reading: Pat Murphy, Effie Seiberg, Jon Chaisson

Santa Rosa • 9:30–10:45 PM
#ReadingMurphySeibergChaisson
Jon Chaisson, Pat Murphy, Effie Seiberg

Programming, Saturday, March 9

Down to Earth: The Future of Green Burial

Salon F • 9:00–10:15 AM
“We’re not detached from Earth. We turn *into* earth.” Inspired by Becky Chambers’ *Record of a Spaceborn Few*, this panel is a discussion of death customs in science fiction and an introduction to existing environmentally conscious burial methods. How can human decay be a catalyst for helping forests flourish, or repopulate coral reefs, or nurture a family garden? What resources exist for people like Kip, who want to care for the bodies of loved ones without prior formal education? Readers inspired by the work of Caretakers like Chambers’ Eyas may be interested to learn that several organizations in the Bay Area not only specialize in providing green burials, home funerals, and death midwifery, they actively seek to train volunteers to provide this care for their own communities.
#DowntoEarth
M. Kennedy, E.M. Markoff, Loren Rhoads, Terry Weyna

Decolonizing Space

Salon A/B • 10:30–11:45 AM
How can we change the words we use, the stories we tell ourselves, and the way we view space, in order to break away from the colonial and imperialist past, and move towards a better future?
#DecolonizingSpace
M: Nancy Jane Moore, Montse Cordero, E.M. Markoff, Alfred Nash

Discovering short fiction

Salon F • 10:30–11:45 AM
We live in golden age for short SFF, but there’s so much out there and relatively few reviews and recommendations compared to novels. How are people finding short fiction? What are some techniques the panelist can suggest for those looking to read more short stories? And what can the community do to help showcase the awesome short fiction happening now?
#Discoveringshortfiction
M: Crystal M. Huff, Anna Blumstein, Rebecca Gomez Farrell, Beth Goder, Terry Weyna

Reading: Ellen Kushner, Keyan Bowes, and Michael R. Johnston

Santa Rosa • 10:30–11:45 AM
#ReadingKushnerBowesJohnston

Gadget and Toy Petting Zoo

Salon C • 10:30–11:45 AM
Bring your nifty gadgets and devices, your gewgaws and gizmos, your stuffies and robots, anything that you want to let people play with. Come try out the latest smartphone, a Bluetooth keyboard that looks like an old typewriter, some very satisfying-feeling faux-stone toy building blocks, a portal gun, assorted fidget spinners, and more.
#GadgetPettingZoo

Un-Award Banquet

Contra Costa Ballroom • 12:00–1:15 PM
The Unaward Banquet has a buffet lunch with options for most diet preferences and limitations. It’s a chance to hang out with your friends, support the convention, and listen to (almost) no speeches. We have a limited number of spaces, so buy your ticket at registration early in the convention.
#UnawardBanquet

Science to the Rescue!

Sacramento • 1:30–2:45 PM

Let's talk about protagonists who use science and technology to save the day. Scientist protagonists used to be a genre staple but now the scientist is more likely to be seen only at the beginning of the movie, shouting a Cassandra truth, right before they die. Is this now an endangered trope due, at least in part, to post-modernism? Why is progress sometimes rejected for progress's sake? How pervasive is the perception that science is bad? We'll examine these issues and discuss favorite examples of science heroes and heroines.

#Sciencetotherescue

M: Alfred Nash, Alex Gurevich, Bradford Lyau, Norm Sperling

Non-Toxic Friendships Between Men

Salon F • 1:30–2:45 PM

Unfortunately, the prevalent role models of friendship between men (especially cis heterosexual men) are frequently toxic, with casual cruelty, meanness, unnecessary fights for dominance, and sometimes homophobia marring the interactions between the supposed friends. What stories have we read that instead had positive portrayals of friendships between men? How were these interactions different? How have these portrayals impacted us?

#nontoxicmensfriendship

M: Ian K. Hagemann, Garrett Croker, Seth Frost, Tyler Hayes

Friends of Carol

Salon A/B • 1:30–2:45 PM

Those of us who knew her and those of us who read her are mourning the loss of one of science fiction's most original, most surprising, and most sneakily influential voices. This event will be a tribute to the late, great Carol Emshwiller. Chance of tears.

#FriendsofCarol

Karen Joy Fowler, Ellen Kushner, Pat Murphy

Reading: Ellen Klages, Juliette Wade, and Caroline Ratajski

Santa Rosa • 1:30–2:45 PM

#ReadingKlagesWadeRatajski

Art Hour

Salon C • 1:30–2:45 PM

A kid-friendly environment to sketch, draw, paint, or just hang out. Paper and art supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring your own.

#ArtHour

What Are You Reading Right Now?

Sacramento • 3:00–4:15 PM

Let's all talk about what we're reading RIGHT NOW.

Does it relate to anything? Is it serious and thought-provoking, or just a fun read? Why are you reading it NOW? Is it new? Is it old, but new to you? Is it something you've always meant to read? Do you think you'll gain geek cred for reading it? Is it even genre?

#Whatareyoureadingrightnow

M: Kerry Ellis, Seth Frost, Matt Maxwell, Chadwick H. Saxelid

Can Villains Have Friends?

Salon F • 3:00–4:15 PM

Moving beyond one-dimensional villains to villains with complex histories, experiences, identities, and contexts has led to many fascinating questions. In this panel, we'd like to explore the friendships and other positive relationships that villains have. What are the factors we consider when we assess a villain's interpersonal relationships, and the people they have them with? Where do we want to see lines drawn? Is it noble or dishonorable to be friends with a villain, and why?

#myfriendthevillain

M: Crystal M. Huff, Clint, Alex Gurevich, Madeleine E. Robins, Amanda Taylor-Chaisson

Sense of Place

Salon A/B • 3:00–4:15 PM

What does it take to imagine new worlds -- and, just as important, how to convey their newness and difference? How can you make your stories rich with enough detail to give your readers the sense of alien/fantastical "place", including how it works and how it differs from our own?

#SenseofPlace

M: Effie Seiberg, Garrett Calcaterra, Laura Davy, Juliette Wade, Caroline M. Yoachim

Reading: Vylar Kaftan, Cliff Winnig, Zachariah Ronan Nash

Santa Rosa • 3:00–4:15 PM

#ReadingKaftanWinnigNash

Cooperative Gaming Hour

Salon C • 3:00–4:15 PM

Many a Monopoly game has come close to an all-out brawl. Come learn about and play cooperative games, where all the players are on the same team.

#CooperativeGames

“Friend” as Code Word

Salon F • 4:30–5:45 PM

Throughout LGBTQ history, “friend” was often a code-word for a different relationship — lover, partner, etc. This has been reflected in the literature that has come down to us from these earlier times, and has made a garden industry out of looking back and speculating where it does and not apply. The panelists will discuss “friend” as a code word in queer culture and literature, along with offshoots such as “friend of Dorothy” and the more modern usage of “family” as queer chosen family.

#FriendasCodeWord

M: Heather Rose Jones, Nabil Hijazi, Michael R. Johnston, Ellen Klages, Ellen Kushner

Creating With a Day Job

Sacramento • 4:30–5:45 PM

Strategies, tactics and tips for creating both quantity *and* quality output while maintaining a full-time job, including unpaid occupations like parenting and being a full-time healthcare giver. Panelists will provide not only encouragement, but concrete methods and distinct approaches that people can start to use right away.

#CreatingWithaDayJob

M: Alan Bostick, Cassie Alexander, James Beach, Andy Goldman, Caroline Ratajski

What’s Up Out There?

Salon A/B • 4:30–5:45 PM

We’re living in an incredible age of cosmic exploration, but if you’re not a space nerd already, you might not know about much beyond the fact that Mars rovers exist. So, what are we up to off-planet? Join Becky Chambers as she takes off her author hat and puts on her NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador badge for a lively crash course on the fantastic spacecraft exploring our planetary neighborhood right now. (And if it’s been a while since you took a science class, not to worry. This entry-level talk is accessible to curious minds of all stripes.)

#WhatsUpOutThere

Becky Chambers

Reading: Chaz Brenchley, Daniel Marcus, and Laura Blackwell

Santa Rosa • 4:30–5:45 PM

#ReadingBrenchleyMarcusBlackwell

Family-Friendly Gaming Hour

Salon C • 4:30–5:45 PM

Come play fun, kid-friendly games with us.

#KidGames

Consent Culture Is Not Just for Sex

Salon A/B • 8:00–9:15 PM

Many of us have heard of consent culture within the sexual realm, but what does consent mean in the larger world? In Becky Chambers' Wayfarers books, consent is asked (when possible) before bringing up difficult topics or conversations, assisting one another, sharing information about other people, during the different steps of medical procedures, etc.. Similarly, in Kameron Hurley's Worldbreaker series, the Dhai culture establishes an age of consent of seven years, after which permissions must be explicitly obtained before touching someone in a non-emergency situation. Our panelists will do a deep dive into topics around consent such as data privacy, bodily consent in the context of AIs, robots, etc., political consent (what does a vote actually mean?), and its flip side -- lack of consent, especially in an SFnal context.

#ConsentCulture

M: Sasha Pixlee, M: Steven Schwartz, Ian K. Hagemann, Emma Humphries, Guy W. Thomas

Small Houses, Big Futures: Publishing SF with Small Presses

Salon F • 8:00–9:15 PM

While many of us dream of a Big 5 deal, there are numerous Small Press publishers that are taking risks the larger publishers can't, giving more writers access to the market. But that access comes with smaller (or no) advances and a larger proportion of labor on the author. What's different about publishing with a Small Press vs. a big publishing house? How is the experience different, for the editor and for the writer?

#SmallHousesBigFutures

M: Rebecca Gomez Farrell, Jon Chaisson, Michael R. Johnston, Dave Smeds

Reading: David Levine, Deborah J. Ross, and Megan O'Keefe

Santa Rosa • 8:00–9:15 PM

#ReadingLevineRossOKeefe

LARP: Thermophiles In Love

Salon C • 8:00–9:15 PM

Curious about Live Action Role Playing? Come experience one first-hand with Samara Hayley Steele, creator of the popular LARP, Thermophiles in Love. No prior experience required.

#LARP

Karaoke

Contra Costa Ballroom • 8:00 PM until ?

Come join us for Bruce Rogers and Kor Karaoke, and sing your hearts out!

#Karaoke

Exogamy — How We *ahem* With Those Not Like Us

Salon F • 9:30–10:45 PM

In Becky Chambers' books, interspecies exogamy is treated as unusual, sometimes taboo, but not unspeakable; in Larry Niven's Ringworld books, it's a form of diplomacy. In James Tiptree Jr.'s "And I Awoke And Found Me Here On The Cold Hill's Side" it's a recipe for specieswide disaster. If we encounter aliens, given our history of technology and exploration so far (how long does it take before some new technology is applied, whether successfully or not, to sex?), we're likely going to try, if it's at all possible, to do things with them. This panel will discuss the whys, the why nots, perhaps the hows and how nots of our apparent exogamic urge.

#Exogamy

Nabil Hijazi, Crystal M. Huff, David D. Levine, Steven Schwartz

Programming, Sunday, March 10

It's Never Too Late to Be a Writer

Salon F • 9:00–10:15 AM

We've all heard the new stories about the latest '30 under 30' writers in the field, but what about writers over 30 that are just starting out? It's certainly possible for an older writer to break out, whether via commercial routes or via self-publishing. This panel will focus on the positive aspects of becoming a published author at a later age, and how to make it work.

#Itsnevertoolatetobeawriter

M: Heather Rose Jones, Marion Deeds, Tina Myers, Deborah J. Ross, Norm Sperling

Friendship Between Different Genders

Sacramento • 10:30–11:45 AM

It's long been a trope that if there are two protagonists of different genders and aligned sexual orientations, they will end up in a romantic relationship by the end of the tale, regardless of whether it makes sense for who the characters are and how they've interacted. Sometimes, one character quite obviously mistreats the other in the course of the story and the romance can feel like it is propagating the cultural narratives that support people entering and staying in abusive relationships. However,

there is an emerging trend of characters becoming and remaining platonic friends after going through their adventures together. What are our favorite examples, and how did they make us feel? What do we think is the motivation behind this innovation? How do we think queer sexuality and community has influenced this?

#differentgenderfriendships

M: Alan Bostick, Montse Cordero, Alex Gurevich, Nancy Jane Moore

Girl Gang: Female Friendships in Science Fiction and Fantasy

Salon A/B • 10:30–11:45 AM

Smurfette Syndrome plagues science fiction and fantasy: groups of male characters with only one or two women--who revolve around the men. This means that opportunities for female friendships and working partnerships are limited. Why don't we have more stories with women on demon-hunting roadtrips, crewing a small spaceship together, pulling off sorcerous heists and capers as a team, creating weird science and battling bureaucracy, or serving as daring captain and dedicated first officer? For that matter, where are the sorcerous sisters, the battling aunts, the grandmother-mother-daughter teams? Let's discuss what we want to see (and write!), why it's important, and what obstacles stand in the way.

#GirlGang

M: Clarissa C. S. Ryan, Laura Blackwell, Katharine Kerr, Ellen Klages, Amanda Taylor-Chaisson

Do We Welcome Our Silicon Citizens?

The Rights of AIs

Salon F • 10:30–11:45 AM

In the Becky Chambers novels, AIs are without rights, though many people consider them just as valuable and deserving of them as other sapients. In William Gibson's Neuromancer trilogy they're kept artificially controlled -- and in his "Idoru", someone tries to marry one. Throughout SF, how much freedom and what rights AIs possessed has varied. We are getting ever closer to the moment when we'll have to decide how to treat AIs under the law, and in political and human practice. How will we, when the time comes? How should we?

#OurSiliconCitizens

M: David D. Levine, James Beach, Karen Brenchley, Megan E. O'Keefe, Steven Schwartz

Honored Guest Reading

Santa Rosa • 10:30–11:45 AM

Becky Chambers, Karen Joy Fowler

RPG Hour

Salon C • 10:30–11:45 AM

Come learn about and play Role Playing Games. If you've always wanted to be a GameMaster, here's your chance. Learn about characters, attributes, rolls, and campaigns.

#RolePlayingGames

Archives and Genre

Salon A/B • 1:30–2:45 PM

Archives are science fictional: archivists have to anticipate climate change, the evolution of technology, and how historians will view the present day. Archives are fantastical: they involve a deep encounter with the past, redolent of parchment, leather, and the dust of vanished information. This panel will explore archives as an SFF-inal phenomenon, as well as portrayals of archives and archivists in science fiction and fantasy.

#ArchivesandGenre

Kerry Ellis, Isaac R. Fellman, Marissa Friedman, Beth Goder, Mary Salome

Broad Universe Rapid Fire Reading

Santa Rosa • 1:30–2:45 PM

Broad Universe is one of the oldest organizations supporting female writers of speculative fiction. At conventions nationwide, Broad Universe hosts Rapid Fire Readings to highlight the amazing work of our members. Several members of the group take part by sharing short bursts of fiction that keep the reading lively and exciting.

#BroadUniverseRapidFireReading

Rebecca Gomez Farrell, L.S. Johnson, Loren Rhoads

Honored Ghost Ursula K. Le Guin

Salon F • 1:30–2:45 PM

Debbie Notkin leads a group discussion about the works of Ursula Le Guin and what they mean to us.

#HonoredGhostPanel

M: Debbie Notkin

Clean Up Crew: Game Room

Salon C • 1:30–2:45 PM

Offer suggestions for improving the game room while we help tidy things up.

#CleanUpCrew

How was FOGcon?

Salon A/B • 3:00–4:15 PM

We'd like to hear from you what went well and what didn't go so well. How can we do better next year?

#HowwasFOGcon



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Program Participants

Cassie Alexander is a registered nurse and author of the Edie Spence urban fantasy series.

Laura Blackwell is a Pushcart-nominated writer and Shimmer's final copy editor. Her fiction has appeared in various anthologies and periodicals. Ellen Datlow selected her short story "Bitter Perfume" as an Honorable Mention for *Best Horror of the Year, Vol. 8*. The story appeared in *She Walks in Shadows*, which won a World Fantasy Award. Recent publications appear in *Nightmare* and *Syntax & Salt*.

Anna Blumstein has degrees in urban planning and sustainable agriculture and loves to talk about nature and the built environment. She helped work behind the scenes to create the new "Not a Hugo" YA award. Anna has recently started writing an online urban planning advice column called Building Community

Alan Bostick has been by turns a physicist, editor, baker, poker pro, writer, and chocolatier. Equally at home in the salon privée of a Las Vegas casino resort and the slums of Haiti, Bostick is the very model of a real-life Heinlein protagonist. Pour him a shot of single-malt scotch, and ask him about exploring the ruins of ancient civilizations, probing the secrets of gravity with laser light, or working with the vexing polymorphic crystalline structure of cocoa butter.

Keyan Bowes is a peripatetic writer of science fiction and fantasy based in San Francisco. She's lived in ten cities in seven countries, visited many more, and hopes to add still others to the list. They sometimes form the settings for her stories. Her work can be found online in various webzines (including a Polish one), a podcast, and an award-winning short film; and on paper in a dozen print anthologies. She's a graduate of the 2007 Clarion Workshop for science fiction and fantasy writers. Keyan's website is at www.keyanbowes.org

Chaz Brenchley has been making a living as a writer since the age of eighteen. He is the author of nine thrillers and five fantasies. As Daniel Fox, he has published a Chinese-influenced fantasy series, beginning with *Dragon in Chains*; as Ben Macallan, two urban fantasies, *Desdaemona* and *Pandaemonium*. A British Fantasy Award winner, he has also published books for children and more than 500 short stories in various genres. When he married, he moved from Newcastle to California.

Karen Brenchley has had science fiction, steampunk, and fantasy stories appear in various anthologies both alone and with her husband, Chaz Brenchley. She founded the SF in SF reading series with Terry Bisson, and edited her husband's Lambda Award-winning collection *Bitter Waters*. She designs analytics

tools for large, unstructured data sets, is a defunct black belt in aikido, and lives in Sunnyvale with her husband, two squabbling cats, and a long-suffering turtle. See more at her website, <http://www.karenbrenchley.com>.

Garrett Calcaterra is author of the epic fantasy series *The Dreamwielder Chronicles* and the short story collection *Dreamrush*. His short work has appeared in numerous anthologies, speculative-fiction magazines, and literary journals, including *Confrontation*, *Writers' Journal*, *Black Gate*, *Wet Ink*, *Pirates & Swashbucklers 1 & 2*, *Membrane SF*, *Arkham Tales*, and *Fracas*: a collection of short fiction. Garrett holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Science from Pacific University and a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing from Chapman University. He has over 12 years of experience as a writing instructor and works as a copywriter and freelance science editor.

Jon Chaisson is the author of the Bridgetown Trilogy (*A Division of Souls*, *The Persistence of Memories*, and *The Balance of Light*), novels in the expansive Mendaihu Universe. He started self-publishing novels in 2015 via Smashwords, and is in the process of starting up Mendaihu Press. A non-genre novel, *Meet the Lidwells!*, was published in spring 2018.

Michele Cox found fandom — and filking! — in her teens and never left. Since then she has earned an MA in Theology, begun committing poetry, and taught herself technical writing. She is a polytheistic panentheistic mystic; her favorite spec fic ranges from Pangborn through Bujold to Jemisin, and more recently Palmer and Hairston! Presented with any given either-or choice, her likeliest answer is "Yes, please!" She is dependent on her very tolerant partners, not-so-tolerant cats, and a vast number of inanimate objects.

Garrett Croker is an SFF writer in the San Francisco Bay Area. Find his fiction on Pseudopod, the horror podcast! Outside of writing, he's been an English teacher, a digital marketer, and a copywriter. Yes, he has cats. Two of them. They cuddle with him. They're great. He also says stuff on Twitter, which is the best place to find him online right now: <https://twitter.com/garrettcroker>

Laura Davy lives in California with her husband and her cat. She wrote her first story when she was in Elementary School and, despite the fact that the plot didn't make sense, she kept on writing. She has been published in *Apex*, *Escape Pod*, *Sword & Sorceress 31* and others. You can learn more about her at www.lauradavy.com.

Marion Deeds is a writer, a reader and reviewer of speculative fiction, a conventional storyteller in an experimental world; a dreamer; a walker and a feeder of crows. See Marion's reviews at www.fantasyliterature.com and follow Marion on Twitter; @mariond_d

Kerry Ellis works in clinical trials but her secret passion is archaeology. She once took a year off to travel and nearly got lost in Hong Kong. Her favorite SF/F books are *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell, and *Kindred* by Octavia Butler. She can spend hours looking at ruins.

Isaac R. Fellman published his debut novel, *The Breath of the Sun*, in 2018 under his former name of Rachel Fellman. He spends most of his time thinking about airplanes, archives, art history, boats, and queer and trans identity, though not always in alphabetical order.

Elizabeth Forest is the byline of a former academic librarian who writes historical and speculative fiction for all ages. Last year she self-published a fantasy novel for tweens titled *The Third Kind of Magic*.

Beth Goder works as an archivist, processing the historical papers of economists, scientists, and other interesting folks. Her fiction has appeared in venues such as Fireside, Escape Pod, and an anthology from Flame Tree Press. She has a degree in Information Science from the University of Michigan.

Andy Goldman has been writing since he was a little kid bashing out stories on his typewriter. They were often incredibly silly firsthand accounts of the adventures of his Transformers, G.I. Joe, and Star Wars action figures. Fast forward thirty years and Andy is still playing with toys and telling stories, much to his delight. The typewriter, alas, did not survive. One or two other things have changed in the interim, the most important being his marriage to a wonderful, supportive wife, and the introduction of two beautiful, intelligent, and spirited daughters who very much encourage Dad's toy-buying habit, especially when it comes to Lego. Andy's work is heavily influenced by growing up in the 80s and 90s, and mixes western SFF with manga and anime. He hopes readers enjoy adventuring in the fantastical worlds inside his head for years to come.

In all but one career aptitude test **Rebecca Gomez Farrell** has taken, writer has been the #1 result. But when she tastes the salty air and hears the sea lions bark, she wonders if maybe sea captain was the right choice after all. Currently marooned in Oakland, CA, Becca is a member of Broad Universe and an associate member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America. Her epic fantasy novel, *Wings Unseen*, debuted in August 2017 from Meerkat Press. Her shorter works have been published over 20 times in magazines, newspapers, and anthologies including *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, *Pulp Literature*, and the recent *Flight into Fright* anthology from Word Horde. Becca co-leads the East Bay Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Meetup group and runs the San Francisco chapter of the Women Who Submit Writing organization in addition to moderating Facebook discussion groups for female-identifying and genderqueer writers. Becca's food, drink, and travel writing,

which has appeared in local media in CA and NC, can primarily be found at her blog, theGourmez.com. For a list of all her published work, fiction and nonfiction, check out her author website at RebeccaGomezFarrell.com. Social Media Handle: @theGourmez.

Alex Gurevich was born in St. Petersburg, Russia. Moved to the USA in 1989 at the age of 19. Received Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Chicago. Worked in financial markets in New York. Recently retired from Wall Street and lives in Sausalito, California, focusing on writing SF/F.

Ian K. Hagemann is a mixed-race fan and writer in Seattle. He helped start Potlatch and the Carl Brandon Society, and is currently doing and leading personal work with The Mankind Project and Inward Journey. He has published several articles in *The WisCon Chronicles*, most recently one on emotions and oppression. He is currently a first-year day student in the Masters in Social Work program at the University of Washington.

Tyler Hayes is a science fiction and fantasy writer from Northern California, and a Social Justice Bard specializing in the College of Comfort. He writes stories he hopes will show people that not only are they not alone in this terrifying world, but we might just make things better. His fiction has appeared online in *Anotherrealm*, *Nossa Morte*, and *The Edge of Propinquity*, and in print in anthologies from *Alliteration Ink*, *Graveside Tales*, and *Aetherwatch*. Tyler is a member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, and is represented by Lisa Abellera of Kimberley Cameron and Associates. Tyler would also love to play *Sentinels of the Multiverse* with you if you're interested.

Crystal Huff spends time chasing down conventioners and editing SFF from around the world, primarily with the Future Affairs Administration in Beijing and *Crossed Genres* in Boston. Crystal was convention chair of *Arisia 2011*, *Relaxacon 2011*, *Readercons 23-25*, and co-chair of *JOFcon I* and *Worldcon 75* in Helsinki. Crystal's day job involves fighting the kyriarchy, as well, via research on impostor syndrome and workshops to combat sexism and transphobia. Alignment: Chaotic Good. Pronouns: they/them. Crystal sometimes blogs at crystalhuff.com. They can also be found on twitter as @crystalvisits and @CrystalMHuff, and on Facebook.

Emma Humphries believes in the healing power of Sleater-Kinney's "Dig Me Out," coffee, hockey, and the Open Web. For the Mozilla project she helps people file better bugs, helps engineers make decisions on those bugs faster, and tries to make the open source friendlier for underrepresented groups. In her spare time she dances, messes about with tiny computers, cooks, and rides her electric bike. She started working on the Web when she asked the Tiptree Award's Motherboard if she could make a website for them. She still has the original site on a 3.5" disk. She lives with her wife and several cats in Silicon Valley, on lands that belong to the Tamyen people.

Micah Joel is the coordinator of FOGcon game room programming and proprietor of the YouTube channel Think Like Tesla. He graduated from Viable Paradise during John Scalzi's last year teaching the workshop. An anthology of his short works about famous scientists and their ideas can be downloaded from micahjoel.info/geeks for free. His Tesla Chronicle novel *Broken Tablet* is available, with the sequel coming spring 2019. Some other words that describe Micah include: supertaster, hardware hacker, multi-cellular, aspie, carbon-based, ambisinister, national-ranked beer and mead judge, distractable, licensed amateur radio operator, and author. His 8-bit novel *Level UP* was published in spring 2018. If you're excited about the *Ready Player One* movie, let's talk!

L.S. Johnson lives in Northern California and feeds her cats by indexing books. Her fiction has appeared in *Strange Horizons*, *Interzone*, *Year's Best Weird Fiction*, and other venues. Her self-published collection, *Vacui Magia: Stories*, won the 2016 North Street Book Prize and was a finalist for the World Fantasy Award. *Leviathan*, the sequel to her novella *Harkworth Hall*, was published in late spring 2018.

Born in the San Francisco bay area and raised in Napa, California, **Michael R. Johnston** grew up steeped in everything Science Fiction and Fantasy from Asimov to Zelazny, as well as endless terrible SF TV shows he still has a slightly embarrassed fondness for. Michael currently lives in Sacramento, California, with his wife and daughter. When he's not writing or teaching, he spends time with his family, plays video games and tabletop RPGs, and reads. He blogs at MJohnstonBooks.com, and can be found on Twitter as @MREJohnston.

Heather Rose Jones is writing a historic fantasy series with swordswomen and magic set in the alternate-Regency-era country of Alpennia. She blogs about research into lesbian-like motifs in history and literature at the Lesbian Historic Motif Project and writes both historical and fantasy fiction based on that research. She has a PhD in linguistics, studying metaphor theory and the semantics of Medieval Welsh prepositions, and works as an industrial failure investigator.

Vylar Kaftan has published about four dozen stories in places like *Clarkesworld*, *Lightspeed*, and *Asimov's*. Most recently she published an alternate history novella in *Asimov's*, "The Weight of the Sunrise," in which the Incan Empire survives into the 19th century. She was nominated for a Nebula in 2011 for her short story "I'm Alive, I Love You, I'll See You in Reno". She blogs at www.vylarkaftan.net.

Katharine Kerr was born in Cleveland, Ohio, far too many years ago to contemplate. She became a confirmed Californian at age 9, when her family moved to the state. It wasn't until the 1980s that she learned that her true talent lay in creating stories that aren't true. Rather than go into advertising, she became a genre writer. Over those far too many years she has written 28 books, most of them traditionally published, including the Deverry series of epic fantasies, the Nola O'Grady series of light-hearted urban fantasy, the occult "Runemaster" novels, and

various works of science fiction. Her latest book, *Flickers*, will appear under the name of Kathryn Jordan in order to avoid confusing readers, as it's completely different from the rest.

Ellen Klages is the author of three acclaimed YA novels: *The Green Glass Sea*, which won the Scott O'Dell Award, the New Mexico Book Award, and the Lopez Award; *White Sands, Red Menace*, which won the California and New Mexico Book Awards, and *Out of Left Field*. Her short stories have been translated into Czech, French, German, Hungarian, Japanese, and Swedish and have been nominated for the Nebula Award, the Hugo, World Fantasy, and Campbell awards. Her story, "Basement Magic," won a Nebula in 2005. She lives in San Francisco, in a small house full of strange and wondrous things. Her most recent collection is *Wicked Wonders*, from Tachyon Publications, and her most recent novella is *Passing Strange*, from Tor.com.

Ellen Kushner's "Riverside" series begins with the novel *Swordpoint*, followed by *The Privilege of the Sword*, *The Fall of the Kings* (written with Delia Sherman) and, most recently, the collaborative prequel *Tremontaine* for SerialBox.com. She herself narrated all three novels for Neil Gaiman Presents/ Audible.com. Her novel *Thomas the Rhymer* won the World Fantasy and Mythopoeic Awards, and is a Gollancz "Fantasy Masterwork." She has taught creative writing at Clarion, the Odyssey Workshop, and is an instructor at Hollins University's Children's Literature M.F.A. program. She lives in New York City with her wife Delia Sherman in an apartment full of airplane and theater ticket stubs. She is full of good intentions. www.EllenKushner.com Twitter: @EllenKushner

Anne Leonard is the author of the fantasy novel *Moth and Spark*. Her latest short fiction appears in *Lace and Blade 5* (ed. Deborah J. Ross). She is a trained mediator and a lawyer.

David D. Levine is the author of Andre Norton Award winning novel *Arabella of Mars* (Tor 2016), sequels *Arabella and the Battle of Venus* (Tor 2017) and *Arabella the Traitor of Mars* (Tor 2018), and over fifty SF and fantasy stories. His story "Tk'Tk'Tk" won the Hugo, and he has been shortlisted for awards including the Hugo, Nebula, Campbell, and Sturgeon. Stories have appeared in *Asimov's*, *Analog*, *F&SF*, Tor.com, numerous Year's Best anthologies, and his award-winning collection *Space Magic*.

Bradford Lyau, a life-long reader of SF, has attended science fiction conventions for over forty years and been a program participant for over twenty-five years. He spends his time working for a high-tech start-up company near Silicon Valley and being a political consultant. He continues to publish academic articles on American, British, and European SF. He holds advanced degrees in history (MA and PhD) from the University of Chicago. His book-length academic study, *The Anticipation Novelists of 1950s French Science Fiction: Stepchildren of Voltaire* was published by McFarland and Company and has received positive reviews from the leading academic

journals dealing with science analyzing French popular science fiction.

Daniel Marcus has published stories in many literary and genre venues, including *Witness*, *Asimov's Science Fiction*, *Realms of Fantasy*, *ZYZZYVA*, and *Fantasy and Science Fiction*. Some of these have been collected in *Binding Energy* (Elastic Press, 2008). He is the author of two novels: *Burn Rate* (2009), and *A Crack In Everything* (2011). Daniel was a finalist for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer. He has taught in the creative writing program at U.C. Berkeley Extension and is currently a member of the online faculty at Gotham Writers' Workshop. After a spectacularly unsuccessful career attempt as a saxophonist, Daniel earned a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from U.C. Berkeley, has worked as an applied mathematician at the Lawrence Livermore Lab, the Lawrence Berkeley Lab, and Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study. Daniel then turned his attention to the private sector, where he has built and managed systems and software in a variety of problem domains and organizational settings.

E.M. Markoff is the award-winning Latinx author of *The Deadbringer* and *To Nurture & Kill*. Growing up, she spent many days exploring her hometown cemetery, where her love of all things dark began. Upon coming of age, she decided to pursue a career as a microbiologist, where she spent a few years channeling her inner mad scientist. She is a member of the Horror Writers Association and Broad Universe. Visit her at www.elderet.com.

A southern California native transplanted to the Sierra Nevada Foothills, **Matt Maxwell** has been writing since he learned how to touch-type before he was in high school. He attended college at University of California, Irvine and graduated the same year *Twin Peaks* came on the air. Afterwards, he went on to work at a think-tank with members of the Manhattan Project team. Don't get excited. He did computer and clerical work. He took classes in design and animation and went on to work as an animator at Netter Digital, on Max Steel and Dan Dare. Sometimes he plays guitar and or keyboards and or drones for Identify 9 (and departed Roswell Incident), which you can hear at highway62.bandcamp.com. He is the author of several novels, including *Ragnarok Summer* and *BLUE HIGHWAY*. He has written several short story collections, including *Dustbearer*. *Highway 62 Revisited* is his latest collection of non-fiction and commentary. Finally, he is the writer and creator of the western/horror comic series *Strangeways*, illustrated by Luis Guragña and Gervasio and Jok. He talks too much on twitter (@highway_62) and spends too much time on tumblr (highway62.tumblr.com and intrapanel.tumblr.com) where he chatters about movies and comics, respectively.

Nancy Jane Moore's science fiction novel *The Weave* was published in 2015 by Aqueduct Press. Her other books include the collection *Conscious Inconsistencies*, published by PS Publishing, and the novella *Changeling*, available in print and ebook from Aqueduct Press. She is a member of the publishing co-op Book View Café and SFWA. In addition to writing fic-

tion, Nancy holds a fourth degree black belt in the martial art of Aikido. She also teaches empowerment self defense.

Pat Murphy is a writer, a scientist, and a toy maker. Her novels include *The Wild Girls*, *Adventures in Time and Space with Max Merriwell*, and *The Falling Woman*. Her fiction has won the Nebula, the Philip K. Dick Award, the World Fantasy Award, and the 2002 Seiun Award. Currently, Pat enjoys looking for trouble. Her favorite color is ultraviolet. Her favorite book is whichever one she is working on right now.

Tina LeCount Myers is a writer, artist, independent historian, and surfer. Born in Mexico to expat-bohemian parents, she grew up on Southern California tennis courts with a prophecy hanging over her head; her parents hoped she'd one day be an author. Tina is a member of the Western Association of Women Historians, The Castro Writers' Cooperative, and a guest instructor for the Young Writers' Workshop at 826 Valencia. She is the author of *The Song of All* and *Dreams of the Dark Sky*.

Alfred Nash is a rocket scientist, track cycling race announcer & mustache competitor. Lead Engineer and Study Facilitator for the Advanced Projects Design Team (Team-X) at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Professional Track Cycling Race Announcer for local, national championship and international events. Professional MC for fundraisers, including moderating discussions with celebrity guests. Winner of the 2015 National Beard and Moustache Championships in the English Moustache category. BS in Physics from Stanford University and Ph.D in Physics from UC Santa Barbara. Father of a science fiction author.

Zachariah Nash is a college student & science fiction writer.

Debbie Notkin has been at various times a science fiction editor, book reviewer, bookstore owner, convention organizer, fanzine publisher, award administrator and more. She blogs at Body Impolitic with Laurie Toby Edison where, since November 2016, they have focused on issues of resistance and response to the authoritarian American government. She also works with Strike Debt Bay Area and Public Bank East Bay. Her day job is as a contracts manager for a medium-sized publishing company in its San Francisco office .

Megan E. O'Keefe lives in the Bay Area of California and makes soap for a living. It's only a little like Fight Club. She is a first place winner in the Writers of the Future competition and her debut novel, *Steal the Sky*, is out now from Angry Robot Books. She is represented by JABberwocky Literary.

Dominica Phetteplace is a math tutor who writes literary and science fiction. Her work has appeared in *Analog*, *Asimov's*, *Clarkesworld*, *Lightspeed*, *F&SF* and *The Pushcart Prize Anthology*.

Sasha Pixlee is the Grandma Friend.

Caroline Ratajski is a writer and software engineer, currently living in Silicon Valley, California, USA. Previously published as Morgan Dempsey, her fiction is available in *Broken Time Blues* and *Danse Macabre*, as well as at Redstone Science Fiction. She is represented by Barry Goldblatt of Barry Goldblatt Literary, LLC.

Loren Rhoads is the author of *The Dangerous Type*, *Kill By Numbers*, and *No More Heroes: he In the Wake of the Templars* trilogy published by Night Shade Books. She is also the author of the nonfiction guide *199 Cemeteries To See Before You Die*. In addition, she's the co-author of *Lost Angel* and its upcoming sequel *Angelus Rose* about a succubus and her angel.

A California native, **Andrew L. Roberts** is the unlikely descendant of pirates, pilgrims and Portuguese fishermen. His genre of choice is traditional fantasy, but he also enjoys writing magical realism, science fiction and tons of poetry. Some of his writing influences include Ursula K. Le Guin, J.R.R. Tolkien, Kawabata Yasunari, Robertson Davies and Dylan Thomas. He has sold his stories and poetry to *Bourbon Penn Magazine*, *New Myths Magazine*, *Spark: A Creative Anthology* and is a Third Place Winner of The Writers Of The Future Contest. Andrew's current projects include a trilogy set in seventeenth century Japan as well as a novel in verse.

Madeleine Robins is the author of 11 novels, including *Point of Honour*, *Petty Treason*, and *The Sleeping Partner* (the first three Sarah Tolerance alt-Regency noir mysteries), *The Stone War*, *Sold for Endless Rue*. She is currently working on a new Sarah Tolerance novel. In addition, she has been, in no particular order, a nanny, a teacher, an actor and stage-combatant, an administrator, a comic book editor, a baker, typist-clerk for Thos. Cook's Houses of Parliament office, a repairer-of-hurt-books, and an editorial consultant. She holds a degree in Theatre Studies from Connecticut College, and attended the Clarion Science Fiction Workshop in 1981. She is a founding member of the BookViewCafe, where her early Regency romances are available as e-books. All of this leads to a bizarre set of interests and bits of expertise (medieval medicine; cake decorating; urban infrastructure) some of which informs her writing. A native New Yorker and lifelong and passionate fan of cities and all things urban, Madeleine Robins now lives in San Francisco with her family, dog, and one hegemonic lemon tree.

Clarissa Ryan is a science fiction and fantasy writer (as C.C.S. Ryan), with stories published in *Fireside Magazine* and *Farstrider*. She is a graduate of Viable Paradise. Her "day job," which is typically actually her night job, is teaching ESL and English at a community college. She lives in the hinterlands of the San Francisco Bay Area. If you think you ran into her at a Doctor Who convention or in the Ghostbusters 2016 fandom, you are probably right.

Mary Salome has produced radio, video, and web publications, and is currently a Computer Resource Manager at the University of California San Francisco. Her prose and poetry have been published in *Sojourner Magazine*, *Food for our Grandmothers: Writings by Arab-American and Arab-Canadian Feminists*, *SF Weekly*, and *The Bakery*, among other publications. She is the co-producer of the web site *BintElNas.org* and has been a reader and curator at Lit Crawl in San Francisco.

A horror fan from birth, **Chadwick H. Saxelid** loves surrounding himself with books, movies, film soundtracks, horror themed collectibles, and cats. His fascination/love with horror, science fiction, and fantasy has pretty much been a lifelong thing, as has his love of writing.

Steven Schwartz is a writer of spec fic, smut, and poetry both formal and informal, a letterpress printer, and a firm believer in experimenting with programming. He lives in Oakland with a significantly greater than 1:1 ratio of CPU cores to mammals, and more books than he can count. Authors for whom he is at least somewhat completist: Brookmyre, Disch, Delany, Rankin, Stross, Ellison, Shepard, Banks. Short Story Most Often Forced On Other People To Read: "The Man Who Painted The Dragon Griaule", Lucius Shepard. Novel most copies owned of: Samuel R. Delany, *Nova*, 8 and counting, mostly given away for other people to read.

Effie Seiberg is a science fiction and fantasy writer from the Bay Area. Her stories can be found in the *Women Destroy Science Fiction!* issue of *Lightspeed*, *Analog*, *Galaxy's Edge*, *PodCastle*, *Fireside Fiction*, and more. Her story "Rocket Surgery" was an Anlab Award Finalist, and "Thundergod in Therapy" was selected for "The Best of Galaxy's Edge 2015-2017".

Dave Smeds is the author of *The Sorcery Within* and other novels. Short fiction in venues such as *Asimov's SF*, *F&SF*, *Realms of Fantasy*, *Sword & Sorceress*.

Norm Sperling has been an amateur astronomer since age 9. Then a planetarium director, leading to co-designing the Edmund Astroscope telescope, then an editor of *Sky & Telescope* magazine, where he helped turn "Astronomy Day" into a "thing". How do you branch out from the whole Universe? Not from, but within. MA, History of Science, leading to History of Technology, especially 1800s, so obviously Steampunk and the novel he just finished writing. Teaching college astronomy, physics, optics, spaceflight, and historical science courses. Science Editor at *AltaVista.com* ... but they dot-bombed. Editor, *The Journal of Irreproducible Results*, the science humor magazine. Single Dad, leading to Baseball leading to analytics. When time allows, he travels the US in his RV, seeing what he missed before.

Amanda Taylor-Chaisson is a longtime fan of all things genre with a novel in the works.

Guy W. Thomas says: Let's see, the first book I remember reading was *Have Spacesuit, Will Travel* and I was doomed. I started attending SF Cons in the mid-west in the late '70s. I worked on cons since the early 80s. I watch lots of TV, film, and theater. I work as an advocate on issues of disability rights, progressive politics and other issues but not for money. I write SF but haven't been paid to do so in a long time. I'm an introvert who can play an extrovert. I've acted and directed. Chaired a few non-profits, run for office successfully and unsuccessfully. Come talk to me if you'd like to know more. I'll be the handsome gent in the power wheelchair.

Juliette Wade has appeared in *Fantasy and Science Fiction*, *Clarkesworld* and *Analog*. Her nonfiction has appeared in *Analog* and in *Lightspeed's* special issue, *Women Destroy Science Fiction*. She uses her expertise in linguistics, anthropology and Japanese language and culture to enhance her writing and worldbuilding. She lives in northern California, in the Bay Area, with her husband and two children, who support and inspire her. She blogs about language and culture in SF/F at <http://diveintoworldbuilding.blogspot.com> and runs the Dive into Worldbuilding video series and workshop at <https://www.patreon.com/JulietteWade>.

Terry Weyna reviews science fiction, fantasy and horror at *Fantasy Literature* (<http://www.fantasyliterature.com>), including columns on short fiction published most Mondays. Terry says, "In 2013, I read more than 120 books and magazines and published an average of two reviews and columns every week. I particularly enjoy SF/F/H that is literary in nature, or tending toward the surreal; I take great joy in what has variously been called the New Weird or just the Weird, as well as what has been variously called slipstream or cross-genre work. I review books that are not SF/F/H for *Like Fire* (<http://www.openlettersmonthly.com/likefire/>): mainstream fiction, mysteries and thrillers, memoirs and biographies, and the occasional work of nonfiction. I also publish a column called *Sunday Links* on most Sundays, assembling a list of articles of interest to those who love books. I am a lawyer by training, and currently practice part-time. I have taken graduate level courses in criticism (at University of California (Davis)) and through the Science Fiction Research Association. My personal library exceeds 15,000 volumes, about 6,500 of which are SF/F/H."

Cliff Winnig's short fiction appears in the anthologies *That Ain't Right: Historical Accounts of the Miskatonic Valley*, *When the Hero Comes Home: 2*, *Gears and Levers 3*, *Footprints*, the forthcoming *Straight Outta Deadwood*, and several other places. The *Escape Pod* podcast featured his story "The Call of the Sky." His very short fiction appears in the *twit-zines* *Outshine* and *Thaumatrope*. Cliff is a graduate of the *Clarion Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers' Workshop* and a three-time finalist in the *Writers of the Future Contest*. He has taught writing workshops and a class on the history of science fiction. He also sings; plays sitar; dances ballroom, salsa, and Argentine tango; and does tai chi and aikido. He lives with his wife Debby and their three children in Silicon Valley.

Hugo and three-time Nebula Award finalist **Caroline M. Yoachim** is a prolific author of short stories, appearing in *Asimov's*, *Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *Clarkesworld*, and *Lightspeed*, among other places. Her work has been reprinted in multiple year's best anthologies and translated into Chinese, Spanish, and Czech. Yoachim's debut short story collection, *Seven Wonders of a Once and Future World & Other Stories*, came out in 2016.

Accessibility Policy

We at FOGcon take accessibility seriously. We take the approach of universal design: making schedules, communications, and the physical environment usable by as many people as possible. Detailed, up-to-date information will be posted on this web page.

You can always email access@fogcon.org, if you have questions, special needs, or requests.

Unfortunately, we can't make the entire con barrier-free. We are limited by finances, volunteer staffing, and the cussedness of reality: sometimes the accommodation essential to one person (a helper animal, for example) is a barrier to another (those allergic to animals). Let us know, please, if you encounter difficulties or if you can offer suggestions or help.

At a minimum, we expect to offer these accommodations:

- A highly accessible, nonsmoking hotel with a number of handicapped access rooms
- At least one public gender-neutral rest room
- Reserved seats (marked with blue tape) in meeting rooms to help those who need to see or hear
- Dealers' room aisles wide enough for two wheelchairs to pass
- A quiet room, where members can chill out and not speak to one another.
- An effort to reduce perfumes for those with scent sensitivities
- Lists of ingredients wherever possible for those with food allergies
- A wide array of edibles to maximize your chances to find food that is both safe and luscious
- Signs at different heights because not everyone's eye level is the same
- An electronic version of the con schedule
- Accessible website design

Minimizing Stress and Maximizing Comfort

The weather both inside and out varies a lot. Bring layers to add in chilly program rooms, subtract in hot ones, and ensure you're comfortable in the wide range of weather both inside and outside the hotel.

Mobility

If you wish to rent a wheelchair or motorized scooter, we have found a service that will deliver rentals to the hotel's bell desk and pick it up after the con at no additional charge. Email access@fogcon.org for details. Reserve at least 48 hours in advance; a week is better.

Reading

FOGcon provides information in various formats. Our most important publications are the pocket program and the Program Book. In addition to regular print, the FOGcon web site will host PDF and HTML versions. A printed pocket program book is included in the membership packet. **If you want a large-print version of either of these, please request by March 10.**

Listening

For the convenience of speech-readers, we set aside blue stripe seats front and center in every program room. Program participants may be able to use microphones in the larger program rooms. Contact us at access@fogcon.org for any other accommodations.

Eating

If you feel safer or more comfortable bringing your own food, you'll be pleased to hear that all sleeping rooms at the Walnut Creek Marriott Hotel feature a minifridge.

The menu for the Unaward Banquet has been chosen to allow a broad spectrum of delicious foods. You should be able to find gluten-free, dairy-free, vegetarian, and vegan options. Sorry, not specifically kosher, but vegetarian options will always be kosher. We will try to post ingredient lists and avoid cross-contamination, but we cannot guarantee it.

The Consuite is open on Friday from 3:00 PM to 1:00 AM, on Saturday from 8:00 AM to 1:00 AM, and on Sunday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Every attempt will be made to supply ingredient lists and avoid cross-contamination.

Breathing

Our "zoned" fragrance policy balances two needs. For some members, fragrances trigger asthma, migraine, or illness. Some members need to use fragrance to manage pain and mood. Please leave scented products at home if you can do so without detriment to your own health. The Dealers' Room wares may include incense and dusty books. The hotel uses scented cleaning products. Those of us who react strongly to fragrances, dust, and particulates should bring an N95 mask.

Pets are allowed in the Walnut Creek Marriott Hotel.

Potential Barriers that Remain

We want you to know about these potential barriers so you can make informed decisions. “No” is not the same message as “we don’t care” or “we don’t believe you” or “we’re comfortable ignoring your needs.” The Concom has and will continue to wrestle with these issues. Contact access@fogcon.org for background on these remaining barriers:

- Most of the programming rooms are illuminated with fluorescent lighting.
- Members bring a lot of reading materials only available in regular print. The “freebie” tables groan with information on events, zines, books, con bids, art shows, political theater, and much more. Party announcements and such decorate the walls.
- FOGcon is not scent-free.
- Some of the toilet facilities are labeled “Men” and “Women,” although humans don’t divide that neatly.
- We cannot guarantee microphones in all program rooms.
- We have not yet found volunteer interpreters or captioning, and FOGcon just can’t afford paid ones.

Allies: How Every Member Contributes to an Accessible Con

The most significant barriers can be created by thoughtless behavior and inaccurate assumptions about people with disabilities. Part of FOGcon’s community values is to create a con that is accessible and a community that supports accessibility issues.

We all learn contradictory messages about people with disabilities. Disabled people are the archetypal “other”: the fate-worse-than-death, the sainted and spiritual, the cursed and amoral, the sub-human, the super-human, the sexless and the over-sexed. These conflicting stereotypes support a weird stew of fear and fascination. All members create a universally accessible con by paying attention to our own behavior and attitudes.

Offer help—don’t assume it’s needed. Most of us are taught to “help the handicapped” but not to ask “does this person want or need help?” If you think someone may need assistance, just ask. If they say yes, don’t make as-

sumptions; instead listen to the details of what the person with disabilities wants. If they say “no thanks,” don’t be offended. What might look overly complicated or inefficient can be what that disabled person finds works best.

Don’t assume people with disabilities want or need fixing. Members with disabilities are here for the same reasons non-disabled members are: to think and talk about speculative fiction.

Bad ways to start (or continue) a conversation:

“My nephew cured his fibromyalgia with a yak-milk diet.”

“Don’t they have a wonderful new medicine for that?”

“Why take drugs when you just need a positive mental attitude and yoga?”

Better ways to start (or continue) a conversation:

“Have you read Nalo Hopkinson’s *The Salt Roads*?”

“I see you’ve got an Android. How do you like it?”

“Don’t I know you from Facebook?”

Privacy. Please respect others’ physical and emotional boundaries. Do not lean on someone’s wheelchair or move it without permission. Be aware that sudden hugs, tickles, or touches from behind can be seriously triggering to someone with PTSD. Those with scent sensitivities or plant allergies may have severe reactions to having flowers or perfume thrust in their face. Do not ask how someone became disabled or assume their experience is the same as another person with a similar disability. The Access Team have chosen to be information resources about disabilities — ask us.

Respect Blue Zones. Chairs marked with blue are reserved for those who must sit up front in order to lipread or hear. Wheelchair spaces are also marked in blue. Blue zones in hallways and aisles must be kept clear for people entering or leaving. Don’t create traffic jams, please.

Maintain clear paths. FOGcon provides fantastic opportunities to talk, but clogged doorways and hallways make navigation time-consuming for all, and impossible for some of us. Tuck your belongings in front of your feet or under your seat. Remind members gathered in doorways or hallways of the need to share the limited space so all of us can move freely.

Share the air. Smoke and scents travel quickly, and air won’t move if you ask it to. Washing your hands after smoking makes a difference. We ask that you limit your use of scented products if you can do so without negatively affecting your health. For those of us with asthma, migraine, and chemical sensitivities, fewer fragrances, vapors, and particulates make the con a place we can at-

tend. Some of us smoke, and some of us don't. The hotel is completely non-smoking. FOGcon is not, however, a fragrance-free con.

Spread the word. Universal Design simplifies life by making products, communications, and the built environment more usable by as many people as possible at little or no extra cost. Universal design benefits people of all ages and abilities. The Access Team is delighted to discuss how you can incorporate universal design into your conventions, buildings, instruction, publishing and lives: contact us now via access@fogcon.org or in person at the con.

Speak up! You don't need to have a disability to advocate for access. If you see barriers, feel free to suggest how to clear them—whether this means talking respectfully to other members or contacting a convention committee member.

Anti-Harassment Policy

FOGcon is committed to offering a convention experience as free from harassment as we can make it for our members regardless of characteristics such as gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, age, race, religion, nationality, or social class. We do not tolerate harassment of conference participants in any form. FOGcon attendees violating these rules may be sanctioned or expelled from the convention without a refund at the discretion of the convention organizers.

We expect attendees to respect each other and each other's boundaries in all convention space including but not limited to programming, parties, dealer's room, and consuite.

Harassment includes offensive verbal comments related to such characteristics, deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, unwelcome photography or recording, sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome attention. Some people with a history of bad behavior at science fiction conventions may be pre-emptively told that they will not be allowed to register for the convention. Attendees asked to stop any harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately.

If a FOGcon attendee engages in harassing behavior, the convention organizers may take any lawful action we deem appropriate, including but not limited to warning the offender or expelling them from the convention with no refund. If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have similar concerns, please contact a convention staff member immediately. While

we are primarily concerned with preventing harassment in FOGcon space during the convention, we will also respond to FOGcon-related situations that might occur outside that space, for example in local shops, bars, restaurants, or on the street, or in online contexts.

A convention staff member wearing a yellow badge will help attendees contact hotel security or local law enforcement, provide escorts, or otherwise assist those experiencing harassment to feel less unsafe for the duration of the convention. We value your presence.

Walnut Creek Marriott hotel security: 1-925-934-2000
Police: 911 (emergencies only)
National Sexual Assault Hotline: (800) 656-4673 (24 hour crisis line)
Medical help: 911 (emergencies only)
Walnut Creek Taxi: (925) 934-2111

Photography Policy

Almost everyone who has a cell phone has a camera, and almost everyone who comes to FOGcon has a cell phone. Video and audio recording and photography for personal archival use only is generally okay, unless individuals make it clear that they do not wish to be photographed or filmed, in which case any photography or recording of them is expressly forbidden.

Please be polite and ask before taking photographs or recordings. We suggest that photographs be taken before or after a program event to avoid distracting panelists and audience members from their discussion.

You agree to be solely responsible for clearing any and all rights and permissions for any use(s) you might make of the photographs, recordings, transcripts and similar material you take from the convention. Such material may not be posted to any commercial website or commercially operated streaming server including but not limited to YouTube, nor used for any commercial purpose whatsoever. Please ask permission of the subjects before posting to any generally available web sites including unlocked Flickr, Facebook, Twitter, DreamWidth, or LiveJournal accounts. Your participation in FOGcon does not permit you to make use of FOGcon intellectual property. Other than for your purely personal, archival use, you may not use any FOGcon intellectual property for any purpose without the express written consent of FOGcon .

Thanks to our friends at WisCon, including their Access Team, for graciously sharing their policies with us.