



BALTICON 56

MEDIA KIT



who we are

Whether you love science with your fiction or costumes with your books, we do too! While our central theme is writing, literature, and authors, our dynamic program has something everyone can appreciate. Join over fifteen hundred fans of all backgrounds as we gather to celebrate Science Fiction and Fantasy with more than 300 hours of diverse programming, from award winning authors and publishers to twitch live-streamers, from cosplay experts to renowned scientists and tech innovators. Sing along with our filkers, soak in our stunning Art Show and Masquerade, laugh and cry at our Film Festival. We've got something for everyone.

our mission

Balticon exists to celebrate the creation and appreciation of science fiction and fantasy in all its expressions, by bringing together fans of all backgrounds in a warm, welcoming environment.

our vision

We believe in a world where science fiction and fantasy expressions can bring us all together, where no one ever has to feel like an outsider, and where those dreams can lead us into a better future.

Media Kit updated March 1, 2022

1,500

AVERAGE ANNUAL
ATTENDANCE

150+

AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS,
ARTISTS, SCIENTISTS, AND
MUSICIANS PRESENTING

10

GUESTS OF HONOR AND
SPECIAL GUESTS

history

The first Balticon was held in 1967, at the Emerson hotel in Baltimore. In 2001, we moved to Memorial Day Weekend and expanded to four days. The Renaissance became our new home in 2016.

In the 56 years since, Balticon 1, we've been in ten hotels, hosted more than one hundred Guests of Honor, and entertained tens of thousands of attendees.

100% VOLUNTEER RUN

EVERY PART OF OUR CONVENTION IS RUN BY OUR CREW OF VOLUNTEERS, WHO WORK FOR THE LOVE OF FANDOM.

WE GIVE BACK

WE RAISE OVER \$2000 EACH YEAR FOR BSFS BOOKS FOR KIDS, AND ANNUALLY HOST THE HEINLEIN BLOOD DRIVE.

guest of honor: Nancy Springer



Nancy Springer is an American author of fantasy, young adult literature, mystery, and science fiction. Her novel *Larque on the Wing* won the Tiptree Award (now Otherwise Award) in 1994. A prolific author, she has written more than fifty books over a career that has spanned nearly four decades.

She released her first *Enola Holmes* book in 2006, following which she published six sequels in the series. Her other series include *Book of Isle* (fantasy) and the *Tales of Rowan Hood*. Her work, *The Enola Holmes Mysteries*, was adapted in 2020 as a Netflix film, *Enola Holmes*.

nancyspringer.com



contact



<https://www.fb.com/BalticonConvention/>



@Balticon



@balticon.convention



www.balticon.org

quick facts

- Over 300 hours of programming
- Continuously held in Baltimore since 1967
- Home of the Compton Crook Award, and the Robert A. Heinlein Award and the Jack A. Chalker Young Writer's Award.
- Featuring the Balticon Sunday Short Science Fiction Film Festival and the Marty Gear Memorial Masquerade.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: CHAIR@BALTICON.ORG

DID YOU KNOW?

In March of 2020, Balticon 54 was nearly fully planned. Our team of volunteers made a heroic pivot, and we were among the first conventions to transition to fully virtual. We turned around and shared what we learned, and became a model for how to run a Virtual Convention in a pandemic.

(Of course, we absolutely prefer to be in person and we can't wait to see everyone again!)

Jen Midkiff

MUSIC GUEST OF HONOR

Jen Midkiff plays Celtic harp and tenor guitar, and sings songs about critters, favorite science-fiction and fantasy characters and worlds, brain fog, and the frustrations of gravity. As part of the filk band Wild Mercy, she has won the Pegasus Award for Best Performer, and has three albums with Wild Mercy, and two full-length albums and an EP as a solo performer. She is a professional music educator, and is working to become a Certified Music Practitioner (providing therapeutic music in hospital and hospice settings).



Steve Stiles

GHOST OF HONOR

Steve Stiles was a Hugo Award-winning comic fan artist best known for his work on the popular post-apocalyptic dinosaur series "Xenozoic Tales," and passed away Jan. 11, 2020 at the age of 76. A science-fiction lover with a wry sense of humor, Mr. Stiles mostly freelanced for underground fan magazines such as the Kitchen Sink Press and Last Gasp, but his work was also published by DC Comics and Marvel during a long and renowned career. In a 50-year period from the 1960s to the 2010s, he was nominated for best fan artist at the Hugo Awards, an international recognition of the top science-fiction and fantasy work, more than a dozen times — finally winning the award in 2016.



The Maryland State Arts Council has provided a grant to support BSFS activities including Balticon. To discover more about the Maryland State Arts Council and how they impact Maryland, visit msac.org.

Robert A. Heinlein Award

For outstanding published works in science fiction and technical writings to inspire the human exploration of space.

The award committee consists of science fiction writers and was originally chaired by Dr. Yoji Kondo, a long time friend of Robert and Virginia Heinlein. Prior to 2013 the Baltimore Science Fiction Society provided logistical support for this award. Selection of winners was by a committee originally selected by Virginia Heinlein and not by BSFS as a group. As of 2013 the award is fully administered by, and funding ensured by, the Baltimore Science Fiction Society. The committee members originally selected by Virginia Heinlein have joined BSFS and continue to serve as judges in the selection committee. The current Chair of the committee is Michael F. Flynn.

BSFS thanks the Heinlein Society for providing a yearly grant to fund half of the expenses of this award. We also thank the family of Dr. Yoji Kondo for long time support of this award.

Virginia Heinlein authorized multiple awards in memory of her husband. The Robert A. Heinlein Award is not the one fully funded by Virginia Heinlein's estate. This award is supported by independent donations from the interested public. To donate contact dale@bsfs.org for details.



David Gerrold

2022 ROBERT A. HEINLEIN AWARD WINNER



David Gerrold's prolific output includes stage shows, teleplays, film scripts, educational films, computer software, comic books, more than 50 novels and anthologies, and hundreds of articles, columns, and short stories.

He has worked on a dozen different TV series, including Star Trek, Land of the Lost, Twilight Zone, Star Trek: The Next Generation, Babylon 5, and Sliders. He is the author of Star Trek's most popular episode "The Trouble With Tribbles." Many of his novels are classics of the science fiction genre, including The Man Who Folded Himself, the ultimate time travel story, and When HARLIE Was One, considered one of the most thoughtful tales of artificial intelligence ever written.

A ten-time Hugo and Nebula award finalist, David Gerrold is also a recipient of the Skylark Award for Excellence in Imaginative Fiction, the Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement in Horror, and the Forrest J. Ackerman lifetime achievement award.

His latest novel is Hella, an exploration of a world where everything is super-sized.
<https://www.gerrold.com/>

Compton Crook Award

The Compton Crook Award is presented annually to the author of the best debut novel in the field of Science Fiction, Fantasy, or Horror, in the English language. Since 1983, the award has been presented by the members of the Baltimore Science Fiction Society (BSFS), at our annual convention, Balticon.

The list of eligible novels is compiled by the Compton Crook Committee, and all BSFS members have an opportunity to read each selection and vote on the best. The winning author is invited to Balticon for two years, where they receive a cash award and plaque.

Compton Crook, who wrote under the name of Stephen Tall, was a long-time Baltimore resident, Towson State University professor, and science fiction author. He died in 1981.



Micaiah Johnson

2021 COMPTON CROOK WINNER

Micaiah was raised in California's Mojave Desert surrounded by trees named Joshua and women who told stories.

She received her bachelor of arts in creative writing from the University of California, Riverside, and her master of fine arts in fiction from Rutgers University-Camden. She now studies American literature at Vanderbilt University, where she focuses on critical race theory and automotons.

Her debut novel, *The Space Between Worlds*, from Hodder in the UK and Crown in the US, is a science-fiction novel that uses the concept of the multiverse to examine privilege.

<https://www.micaiahjohnson.com>



Arkady Martine

2020 COMPTON CROOK WINNER

Arkady Martine is a speculative fiction writer and, as Dr. AnnaLinden Weller, a historian of the Byzantine Empire and a city planner. She is currently a policy advisor for the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, where she works on climate change mitigation, energy grid modernization, and resiliency planning. Under both her names she writes about border politics, rhetoric, propaganda, and the edges of the world. Her first novel, *A Memory Called Empire*, won the 2020 Hugo Award for Best Novel and the 2020 Compton Crook Award for Best First Novel. Arkady grew up in New York City and, after some time in Turkey, Canada, Sweden, and Baltimore, lives in Santa Fe with her wife, the author Vivian Shaw.

<http://arkadymartine.net>

Balticon 56 Special Guests

Seanán McGuire

SPECIAL GUEST: B55 Guest of Honor

Seanán is the author of the October Daye urban fantasies, the InCryptid urban fantasies, and several other works, both stand-alone and in trilogies or duologies. In case that wasn't enough, she also writes under the pseudonym "Mira Grant." For details on her work as Mira, check out MiraGrant.com.

In her spare time, Seanán records CDs of her original filk music. She is also a cartoonist and draws an irregularly posted autobiographical webcomic, "With Friends Like These...", as well as generating a truly ridiculous number of art cards. Surprisingly enough, she finds time to take multi-hour walks, blog regularly, watch a sickening amount of television, maintain her website, and go to pretty much any movie with the words "blood," "night," "terror," or "attack" in the title. Most people believe she doesn't sleep.

Seanán was the winner of the 2010 John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer, and her novel *Feed* (as Mira Grant) was named as one of Publishers Weekly's Best Books of 2010. In 2013 she became the first person ever to appear five times on the same Hugo Ballot.
<http://seananmcguire.com/>



Seanán McGuire, Wen Spencer, and C.J. Cherryh are returning guests! Having made the shift in Balticon 54 to a Virtual Convention, this year, they'll be joining us in person.



Wen Spencer

SPECIAL GUEST: B54 Guest of Honor

Wen Spencer is the author of more than a dozen science fiction and fantasy novels including the *Elfhame* series. She's the 2003 winner of the John W Campbell Award for Best New Writer and the 2002 winner of the Compton Crook Award. She lives on the Big Island of Hawaii in the shadow of five volcanoes, one of which made her life very interesting in the past year.

<http://www.wenspencer.com>

Balticon 56 Special Guests



C.J. Cherryh

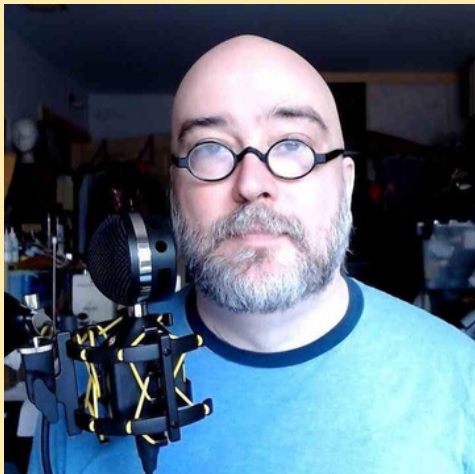
SPECIAL GUEST: 2021 Heinlein Award Winner

C. J. Cherryh is a speculative fiction writer, editor, and translator. She is best known for the Alliance-Union Universe, the Foreigner Universe, and the Fortress series. She won the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer in 1977 and several Hugo Awards including Best Novel for *Downbelow Station* (1981) and *Cyteen* (1988). She has a Master of Arts in classics from Johns Hopkins University. Ms. Cherryh taught high school Latin, Ancient Greek, the classics, and ancient history. She enjoys figure skating and has an interest in genealogy, history, and archaeology. She lives in Spokane, Washington, USA. Her current project, with Jane S. Fancher, is working on a sequel to their 2019 novel *Alliance Rising* set in the Alliance-Union universe.
<https://cherryh.com/>

Kevin Roche

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOR

Kevin Roche has been costuming since he was 8, and a conrunner for years. In his secret identity as a scientist at IBM Research Almaden, he's hard at work wrangling giant robot vacuum chambers and electrons in atomically engineered materials, and is an IBM Q Ambassador and Qiskit Advocate, explaining the weird world of quantum computers to audiences around the world. He is also the editor of *Yipe! The Costume Fanzine of Record* (www.yipezine.com)



Andy Trembley

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOR

Andy found organized fandom in semi-rural Wisconsin when he learned of a SCA shire in his hometown. SCA led to costuming, filking and APAs. Costuming, filking and APAs led to conventions, and that led to attending events all over the upper-midwest. Most recently, Andy ran the "San Jose in 2018: Make the Future" campaign to bring Worldcon 76, the 2018 Worldcon, to San Jose. After a few years away from convention running, he and Kevin will be assisting Westercon 74's hospitality team by planning their bar.