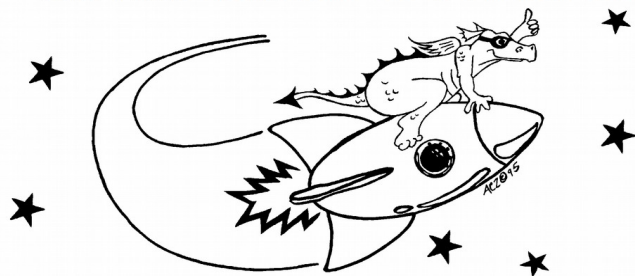


## **Balticon 55 Rocket Mail**

The Vital Newsletter for a Virtual Con



**Saturday, May 29, 2021 Edition**

### **Best Link for Program Schedule**

The link I gave yesterday works, but the best direct link to view the program is <https://schedule.balticon.org/>

### **Opening Ceremonies Report**

Opening ceremonies went forward with the Con-Chair Yakira Heistand acting as MC. The Guests of Honor all gave exceptional introductory statements. C J Cherryh told a heart warming story about her being a new professional author at her first con with her story ending on a poignant end note. You should check out the recording of the entire Opening Ceremonies at our y-tube channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/c/BaltimoreSciFi/videos>

### **Artist Reception Report**

The Friday Night Artists Reception held in Gather featured an extended discussion by Alyssa Winans including her inspiration for the first book cover she created. There was also a discussion of poly-clay uses in sculpture by Nora Echeverria which had folks noting down brand names for future research. Bruce Blackistone explained ironsmithing as sculpture and correct long-ship handling. All in all a successful online recreation of the creative mix at an in-person Balticon's Artist's reception.



The annual Trivia Contest at Balticon held at 4:00 PM in the Federal Hill Zoom Channel area Friday was hosted by Brick Barrientos as usual. The winner was Sharessa .

### **Join Scavenger Hunt at Balticon**

The scavenger hunt is accessed in Discord. There is a strange cottage at the edge of the con. There are magical beasts scattered throughout this land, waiting to be found and hand special items in exchange for tasks completed. If you would like to participate in this adventure, click the treasure map in #03-ribbons and get started on the path to become a cryptozoologist!

### **Con-Suite Action Friday Night**

The general con-suite Zoom channel contained lively discussions among a group of folks which reproduced the normal con suite flow, only without pauses for snacks of course. There were also a lot of folks from around the planet that might not get to a in person only Balticon. Lot of discussion about overcoming time zone challenges.

### **Book Launch Triumph**

Mark Roth hosted a Book Launch for his new book 11,000 Years starting at 8:00 PM Friday in the Virtual Con-Suite area. The event was well attended and Mark held the crowd spellbound with his description of the cultural implications of directed evolution as explored in the novel through the lens of a starship crew from the past acting as viewpoint.

### **Go Fund Me Report**

For the record, as of 9:43 AM Saturday the total GoFundMe donations this year are \$10,340.00 which is \$630.00 higher than last year at the same point on Saturday Morning. Thank you to all of the generous

Saturday : Saturday : Saturday : Saturday : Saturday : Saturday : Saturday : Saturday : Saturday

fans that are making Virtual Balticon 55 possible.

## Glasgow Book Club Event

The bid team for Glasgow in 2024 Worldcon Bid invites you to a Book Club discussion today, Saturday at 1pm (EST) / 6pm (BST), in the Consuite Chat Zoom area. They will be discussing 'Silk and Steel' - A Queer Speculative Adventure Anthology', with stories from Ellen Kushner, Aliette de Bodard, Yoon Ha Lee and more. There will also be a special guest Elaine McLonyn joining. Today. (author of a story in the anthology!)

Even if you have not had a chance to read any of this wonderful collection, you are welcome to join in the discussions, and to discover something about it. There will also be a brief update on the Glasgow in 2024 bid and opportunity any questions. More information about the book club on the blog at:

<https://glasgow2024.org/.../glasgow-in-2024-book-club.../>



Rocketmail reporter deep research at earlier Pandemic reveals No Virtual con in 1378 AD. Temporal wayback generator nominal.

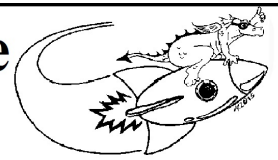
## Remember To Take our Survey!

Please take a moment to fill out the attendee survey. This survey is very important to us. It not only will help us to improve our programming, it will also help us define our demographics to help us get external funding. Because of the information we gathered at Balticon 53, our last in-person convention, we were able to win a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council.

This is the link to the attendee survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/53YYJ6J>

## Send News to the Rocketmail



**This newsletter is for all Balticon news so send your news items to: [rocketmail@balticon.org](mailto:rocketmail@balticon.org)**

Sign up for **email news about BSFS and Balticon** year round including other interesting to SF Fans cultural events in Central Maryland by sending a request to be added to [dale@bsfs.org](mailto:dale@bsfs.org) Managed by google groups. Samples of past news items at:

<https://groups.google.com/a/bsfs.org/g/info>



**The Baltimore Science Fiction Society is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council**